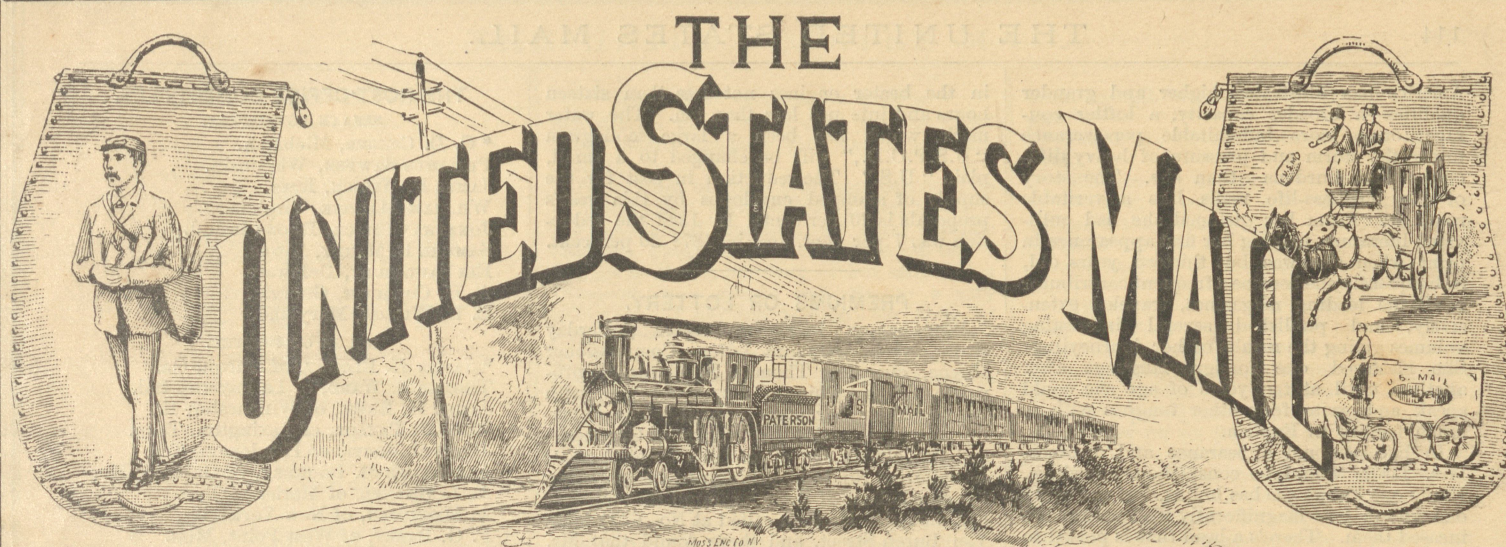




VOL. II.

NEW YORK—CHICAGO, MAY, 1886.

No. 20

MRS. FRANK LESLIE.

A WOMAN'S ENERGY, PLUCK AND RARE EXECUTIVE ABILITY.

The Dying Wishes of a Great Publisher—Triumph Over a Long Succession of Difficulties and Obstacles—A Woman of Refined Taste and Femininity.

"Go to my office, sit in my place, and do my work until my debts are paid," were Mr. Leslie's last words to his wife after hearing that he could no longer live.

It was in the Winter of 1880 that Mrs. Leslie lost her husband. The great publishing house of Frank Leslie was at that time involved in a tangle of debt, and the business in the hands of an assignee, when her husband told her to take his place at the desk, to finish the work he had left undone, to lift the reproach of debt from his name.

She was a young and very beautiful woman, that sad-hearted widow, who turned from a grave to face difficulties the most perplexing, to begin a contest that many wise ones prophesied would end badly for her. But those sage, incredulous, head-shaking financiers did not know what a woman can do who has energy and pluck united with rare intelligence and a mind formed for executive work. By a legal process and in response to her husband's wish, Mrs. Leslie abandoned her Christian names of Miriam Florence and became in the law and to the world "Frank" Leslie. To the business world she became even more than Frank Leslie. When the slender, sweet-faced, gentle-voiced woman walked into her husband's office, and putting back the sad announcing folds of her *crêpe* veil, announced she had come to stay, her gentle, gracious femininity won the sympathy of those about her. But when she came the next day as early as the earliest clerks, and the next day and the next, something more than respect and sympathy for the brave little woman came into their regard for her.

She sat at her desk like a Napoleon over his war maps. She developed a remarkable faculty for knowing news, for seizing upon the very things that caught and charmed the

public mind. A thousand-and-one things in the history of illustrated newspapers originated in her brain, and were executed for her papers. All day long she bent to her desk, and was her own wise counselor. The best of it all was, that Frank Leslie was not afraid. Big contracts did not frighten her, notes to pay did not cause her to get nervous, reading interminable pages of proof did not fret her, thinking out new features for her paper did not perplex her. Always cheery in her speech,

and with considerate and hopeful words for her employes, it is no wonder that both men and women fell in love with the New Frank Leslie and gave her the best work of which they were capable. The dying wishes of Frank Leslie have been carried out, but only after his widow has encountered and triumphed over one long succession of difficulties and obstacles.

Her husband's will was contested, and when finally it was established Mrs. Leslie was confronted with the necessity of having the sum of \$50,000 in cash to pay off some of the more pressing of her husband's creditors. She possessed no ready money, and she had nothing to mortgage, for the title of the great property was still vested in the assignee. She, however, succeeded in effecting the loan. Of course there were plenty of people ready to tell the lender that she would never see her money again, and she confessed that sometimes they made her a little nervous. But the result fully justified her faith. The agreement with Mrs. Leslie called for the payment of the loan in installments, the first \$5,000 to fall due on the 1st of November following the loan. On the 19th of October, "before the first payment could be called for, the last penny of the entire amount had been paid" out of the profits of the business during the previous five months by this brave little woman, who often refers to the time when she lived in the carpetless attic while earning the money to liquidate her husband's debts. Since her widowhood every debt has been paid, and the reputation of the house established on foundations as solid as granite. Meanwhile she has fought her way through nine lawsuits, winning in all.

In the management of her ten publications, employing 300 editors, artists, engravers, printers and others, Mrs. Leslie has displayed the very highest business qualities. An untiring worker, she is found in her office every day, from nine to four o'clock. She signs all checks and money orders, makes all contracts for supplies of every sort, looks over proofs of all articles before they are published, and approves the make-up of every periodical before it is sent to press. She is the head of the whole establishment. No woman in



Frank Leslie

America has illustrated higher and grander qualities—a broader capacity, a loftier courage, or a more indomitable perseverance under the storm and pressure of heavy difficulties and burdens—than she. The story of her business-life reads like a veritable romance. From her girlhood she had cultivated literature, making her first appearance in print when she was but thirteen years old. Subsequently she became a frequent contributor to all the leading magazines, traveled extensively, and published several interesting volumes giving the results of her journeyings. She mastered one foreign language after another, until at ten years of age she could speak and write four other tongues with as much facility as English.

In her personal appearance and manner, Mrs. Leslie would be conspicuous anywhere. Every one knows she has brains, but not every one knows how magnificently well nature has incased them. There's a head that is poised to a dot—just right—independent, but not self-conscious, but telling in its unmistakable set and poise that it is capable of managing almost anything; a face that one never forgets, whether they are interested or not; the loveliest complexion, between blonde and fair; a pair of great, deep, gray eyes, that seem to be saying whole volumes of things and you feel inclined to ask: "What are you thinking about?" at the same time hoping she will tell it all and more, too; the eyelashes are long and heavy, the shape of the eye perfect. As she speaks, her whole face is dancing with intelligence and emotion of the most fascinating types. Her fine, erect, graceful figure attracts attention at once; the shoulders are perfect, the neck a model for a sculptor. In her speech she is singularly winning and direct; and there are few of the keenest conversationalists who can match her in discussion of any subject of social, political, or business interest.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

THIRD Assistant Postmaster-general Hazen has completed the proposals for bids for making stamped envelopes for the next four years. The 1st of May every four years these bids are advertised for, and the competition is more active and hair-splitting than for any other Government contract, as it is the largest single contract which the department makes. For twelve years the Plimpton Envelope Company of Hartford, Conn., and the Morgan Envelope Company of Springfield, Mass., have had the making of stamped envelopes. Since the Government began in 1851 to sell stamped envelopes there has been a steady increase in the amount required each year, until now the Government has for several years been selling more envelopes than all other producers combined. Last year 279,000,000 stamped envelopes, worth \$5,773,000, were sold. With every letting the size of the contract increases and the price of envelopes is reduced. Envelopes which in 1869 cost \$4.80 per 1,000 can now be sold for \$1.80 per 1,000, and the extra letter-size that then cost \$6 are now sold for \$2.40. The proposals this year provide a greater variety of papers and a number of new grades. It was found that people preferred to buy the best quality of envelopes rather than the medium sorts, while the cheap grade was provided. This time a plain ungummed manilla envelope has been called for which can be sold for 40 cents a thousand. This will meet the demand of circular advertisers, which is a large one, monopolized hitherto by private dealers. Two sizes, called baronial, about three inches by four, have been inserted for the benefit of the ladies, who like to use fancy note-papers. The size most used is the plain white or amber known as No. 5, three and one-half inches by six five-sixteenths. Of this the year ending March 31st, 130,475,000 were required—more than twice as many as any other kind used. Bidders are required to give a bond for \$200,000 that they will go on with the contract if it is awarded to them. The contractor is required to do the work under the supervision of a Government agent. The composition of the paper must be according to Government formulas. Rags must be kept

in the beater engines not less than sixteen hours and jute not less than ten. The water mark, which has been a large monogram "U.S.P.O.D.," will be changed to a small, plain "U.S." The reduction in cost for the supply of stamped envelopes by this year's proposals is 20 per cent. In 1882 the reduction was 7 per cent. and in 1878 20 per cent.

PREMIUMS OR LOTTERY.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR ADSIT yesterday swore out a complaint before Commissioner Hoyne, charging Thomas S. Gardner, proprietor of the Chicago *Farm Journal*, with sending lottery circulars by mail. The *Farming World* is another publication of Gardner's, and the offices are alleged to be at No. 94 La Salle and No. 149 Washington Streets. When the marshal called there he found that Gardner had moved. He then called at No. 629½ West Van Buren Street, and there found that Mr. Gardner was at the office of an advertising agent, Mr. C. H. Fuller, No. 69 Dearborn Street, where Gardner was found and arrested. His case was continued until to-day, Mr. Fuller furnishing the \$1,000 bonds. The paper, the Chicago *Farm Journal*, was entered in the post-office, but when it was mailed at second-class rates, some 60,000 copies, it was found that an entire page had been changed from reading to advertising matter, and so it was stopped for investigation. The advertisement describes the benefit of the *Journal*, and also the beauty of lots in the Manatee Orange County in Florida. It also offers one of the lots to each of the first 1,500 persons sending \$1 in cash for subscription to the paper. Another advertisement tells of the premiums of from \$2 to \$5,000 given to the subscribers of the *Farming World*. These were objected to, and caused the arrest of the publisher. Mr. Fuller simply acts as advertising solicitor. Mr. Gardner explains that the paper is all right, and that the first copies, 3,000, on which the paper was entered, were printed to send out to advertisers and went at the rate of one cent each. The advertisement of the paper was regular, and was inserted in the regular edition, which is now held in the post-office, and all the objectionable advertisements are the lottery circulars.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

COLD FACTS.

THE Postmaster-general to-day replied to Senator Ingalls's resolution requesting a tabular statement of the number of fourth-class postmasters removed since March 4th, 1885. The statement shows that in Ohio there were 878 removals; in Indiana, 499; in Kentucky, 194, and in West Virginia, 138. The total number removed in all the States of the Union is but 8,635. There are in the neighborhood of forty-four thousand postmasters of this class in the United States, of which less than a fifth only are yet presided over by Democrats. Still it is said we have had a Democratic Administration for over a year.—*Cincinnati Inquirer*.

ANOTHER POST-OFFICE ROBBERY.

THE post-office inspectors were advised by telegraph yesterday that the post-office at Worthington, Ind., was robbed Thursday night. This intelligence was a disappointment to the inspectors, who had thought they had checked the epidemic of the post-office robberies in Indiana by the arrest of the two professional burglars at Dayton, O., the other day. It now looks as though an organized raid on the country post-offices had been planned, and was being carried out systematically by a gang of professional house-breakers and safe-blowers. The inference is that the gang started somewhere in the west, and is working eastward, having passed through Illinois and Indiana in that direction, and that it is operating in pairs. Postal funds, registered letters, and stamps, in varying amounts, constitute the "swag" of these robbers, and in many cases their expertness in blowing safes and in getting away without leaving the slightest clue by which they might be traced has proved them to be professionals.—*Chicago Times*.

THE POST-OFFICE COMMITTEES.

SENATE COMMITTEE.

* O. D. CONGER, Michigan.
PHILETUS SAWYER, Wisconsin.
JAMES F. WILSON, Iowa.
WILLIAM MAHONE, Virginia.
JONATHAN CHACE, Rhode Island.
SAMUEL B. MAXEY, Texas.
ELI SAULSBURY, Delaware.
A. H. COLQUITT, Georgia.
E. K. WILSON, Maryland.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* JAMES H. BLOUNT, of Macon, Ga.
THOMAS B. WARD, of La Fayette, Ind.
JAMES M. RIGGS, of Winchester, Ill.
JOHN M. TAYLOR, of Lexington, Tenn.
JAMES H. JONES, of Henderson, Tex.
ALEXANDER M. DOCKERY, of Gallatin, Mo.
A. J. WARNER, of Marietta, Ohio.
A. MERRIMAN, of New York City.
F. G. BARRY, of West Point, Miss.
H. H. BINGHAM, of Philadelphia, Pa.
J. B. WAKEFIELD, Blue Earth City, Minn.
J. C. BURROWS, of Kalamazoo, Mich.
RICHARD GUENTHER, Oshkosh, Wis.
S. C. MILLARD, Binghamton, N. Y.
SAMUEL R. PETERS, Newton, Kans.
JOHN T. CAINE, of Salt Lake City, Utah.
* Chairman.

POST-OFFICE REVENUES.

Second-Class Matter.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 12TH.—The increase reported in the post-office revenues exclusive of postage on second-class matter, from thirty of the large offices in the country, for nine months ended March 31st, 1886, is \$924,445. Chicago shows an increase of \$151,551; St. Louis, \$40,417; Cincinnati, \$59,392; San Francisco, \$10,765; Pittsburg, \$15,308; Cleveland, \$15,941; Detroit, \$9,256; Louisville, \$3,554; Milwaukee, \$15,194; Kansas City, \$26,009; Indianapolis, \$4,543; St. Paul, \$23,840; Minneapolis, \$18,230; and Toledo, \$3,542. The increase of second-class matter mailed during the same period at the thirty offices was 5,785,255 pounds.

A MISSING WIFE.

THERE is a certain class of people throughout this country that looks upon a postmaster as a general intelligence office and detective bureau for the public benefit. The following letter to Postmaster Backus from Portland, Oregon, is a sample of the duties some people expect a postmaster to perform:

PORTLAND, Ogn Mar 30 1886.
Post Master Sirs I feel lost to to know what to say to you but the Amount of it is I have A woman there some place And I dont know why she dont write and let me know what is the Matter she worked for one of the men in the P. office that had a little cripple girl; but I under stood that he left; but you may know my wife she is A tall Blonde and A very pretty woman A very nice shaped woman and I wish you would advertise a note asking Lulu Hervy to call and see the P. M. on business and please inform me if you can hear from her I will pay any man \$25 that will tell me where she is She is my lawful wife and went down there for her health and I dont know what has become of her please attend to this for me and Oblige a Heart Broken Husband. my address is Portland Ogn.
please send me the name of the chief detective yours

WANTS TIME TO PRAY.

FLORENCE MCCARTHY, who was appointed a few months ago to a position in the retail stamp department (salary, \$1,060) of the post-office, yesterday resigned. Mr. McCarthy, who was in religion and law prior to becoming a reporter on the *Journal*, left on Assistant Postmaster's Squire's desk a book, "How to become a Christian," in which the following paragraph was marked: "However honest, respectable, and profitable my business may be, yet if it is so engrossing as to seriously interfere with my growth in grace and my usefulness as a Christian, I will either make it less engrossing or I will forsake it altogether, and trust in God to give me a different business or to take care of me and mine in any way He may please. See Matt. iv. 18-23; ix. 9; Mark vi. 3; Acts xviii. 13." He does not know what he will do next, but says he is in God's hands.

ONLY A FADED LETTER.

By H. W. LONGFELLOW.

ONLY a faded letter
I've had this many a day;
To me, oh, it's so precious,
It cheers me on my way.
In perusing o'er its contents
I feel again I'm young;
This faded sheet I'll always keep
Until my days are done.

Only a faded letter,
But it speaks of many things to me.
It brings to view one sweet face
Ever in my memory.
It tells me of a truthful love
That once did burn for me;
A pretty face, a graceful form
I now can plainly see.

The writer of this letter
Has gone to the land above;
Her home is with the angels
Where all's perpetual love.
And now I'm going to meet her
On that most beauteous shore,
Where all is joy and gladness
And peace for evermore.

Yes! only a faded letter,
More precious far than gold;
Its memory is a sweet picture,
And cheers me now I'm old.

NASBY TURNED MUGWUMP.

The Would-be Postmaster of the Corners
Has Taken a New Departure.

IN A BASTEEL (For takin possession uv the Post office), CONFEDERIT X ROADS, (Wich is in the State uv Kentucky), Dec. 7, 1885.—There is a depresshn in the Corners wich is suthin frifeful. Ther is a feelin wich is gatherin strength and intensity, and wat the result will be the Lord only knows.

It wuz perposed in Bascom's yisterday that the citizens shoold move onto the Basteel and releese me by force uv arms, but it wuz promptly votid down. Bascom sed that while my society wuz desirable, he cood hardly afford it. Wher I wuz I cood not run up my account. The heft uv the other citizens sed that so long ez I wuz incarcerated I could not be borreirin uv em, and it wood be well enuff to let me stay. I wuz bein supported at the expense uv the government, and the Corners hed that much out uv the administrashen wich hed betrayed em. We mite be thankful for that at leest.

Every citizen uv of the Corners, however, wants me appointed, fur I owe every one uv em, I think, unless it may be Simeon Johnson, a pauper, wich is supported by the township. I shoold hev owed him, only

HE NEVER HED A DOLLAR,

and all I cood ever get out uv him wuz occasionally invitn myself to share his meals with him, wich, ez he is a cripple and coodnot make fite, I succeeded alluz in compassin.

They spose that ef I git the place I wood pay em off in time, wich accounts fur their solisitood. Alas! They don't know how much I owe Bascom, or how sekoor his hold is onto me, shoold I ever git my rites.

It will take at leest one full term uv four yeers to pay him off, and one yeer uv that is well nigh gone.

I hev left Issaker Gavitt and Deekin Pogram to take keer of theiveselfs, and hev taken a new deparcher. Self-preservashun is hevin's fust law, and I must self-preserve.

I hev turned Mugwump.

I yisterday addrest the follerin letter to the tyrant Cleveland. It wint agin my grane, but I hed to do it.

To His Eggsclency the President: I beg yer attenshun to the follerin fax. I am at present incarcerated in a Basteel at the Corners, fur having attemptid to enforce my rites by pitchin the nigger wich now holds the postoffice here out onto his nose, onto the sidewalk. Yoo will understand that I am a applicant for the post-office at this place, wich posishun I adorned under the late lamented Johnson, wich was succeeded by the brootal Grant, wich histed me.

It hev bin generally sposed that I am a offensive partisan, but I make haste to deny it. I votid fur yoo fur President last fall. 1. Becoz I admired your sterlin integrity, your firmiss and power uv will, and your general fitness for the exalted posishun, and 2. Becoz I fully coincided with yoo in yoor

NOSHUNS UV CIVIL-SERVIS REFORM,

and desired to do wat I cood to purify and bring about necessary reforms in Amerikin pollytix.

While I did all that a honest man cood do to bring about yoor eleckshun, and to block the unallowed ambishn uv that politikle skeemer, Blane, I want it understood that I did not do it ez a partisan. I hev alluz bin a Dimocrat, in a ginerel way, tho uv a very mild type. I hev bin hankerin fur yeers fur a oportunity to git rid even uv a semblance uv Dimocrisy, and to that end, that I mite be a Reformer and no Dimocrat, the very mornin that I heerd the noose uv yoor nominashen I borrowed a cleen shirt, washed my feet, and otherwise disguised myself.

The only regret that I hed in votin the tik-kit wich yoo headid wuz that Hendrix, uv Injeany, a man wich bleaved in the etroshus maxim, "To the victors b'long the spoils," wuz on the tikket with yoo. However, I hed to swaller him in order to vote fur yoo, fur wich I entertane an esteem wich I havn't words to eggpress. The untimely death uv Hendrix leaves yoo free to do ez yoo please, onembarast by spoilsmen, unto wich, while regrettin his deth, I congratoolate yoo in the the interest uv our common kentry.

In the intrest uv civil-servis reform I request the remove uv the gentleman now ok-kepyin the postoffis at this place, and

MY APPOINTMENT IN HIS STEAD.

Mr. Lubbock hez held the place 24 yeers, and, ez a matter uv course, in that time must hev become corrupt. It ain't in the nacher uv things that he cood be otherwise. He hev never bin uv any yoose to the Corners, ez the entire emolyooments uv the offis he hev selfishly put into a house into wich he lives, instead uv spendin it ez the rest uv the citizens do, in Bascom's.

I wood say, in proof of my entire devoshun to the prinsiples wich me and George Willyum Curtis hev alluz advokated, that after votin fur yoo

I IMMEDIATELY WHOOPED AROUND

and votid the entire Republikin tikkit last spring and this fall, ez I conceive a Mugwump to be one wich never votes twict alike, so thet he may be sure uv bein rite at leest half the time. When a Mugwump holds to one party consecootively more than wunst, he becomes a offensive partisan and ceases to be a Mugwump. I shel probably vote the Dimocratic tikket next fall and the Republikin next, so ez to be consistent.

I trust yoo will make this appointment ez soon ez possible, for the people are sendin money lively to the Loozeaner lottery, and every minnit I remain out uv the Postoffis is losin me heavily.

With sentimence uv profound respeck, &c.

* * * * *
I wept when I sent this letter. Things hez come to a purty pass when in order to get an appointment under a Dimekratic President, one hez to speak uv a nigger ez a "gentleman," and otherwise apologize fur being a Dimekrat. But I sent it, and await the result.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY.

(Abased, but hopeful.)

P.S.—I hed hardly got this letter to the President into the postoffis afore I heerd thet Issaker Gavitt and Deekin Pogram hed eech written one jist like it, both denyin thet they wuz offensive partisans. Probably the hull party will be doin the same thing, so the forse uv mine will be broken. Mankind hez more dooplissity than eny uv the rest uv the hoon an family.

FOR THE PUBLIC'S CONVENIENCE.

Complaint of a Post-office Official—Stealing Penholders and Pads.

"It wasn't three days ago that I put three penholders and three blotting pads on this desk, and not one is to be found now."

It was the post-office official and he referred to the writing desk in the corridor.

"What becomes of 'em?" asked the reporter.

"Stolen."

"You don't mean to say that we have people

mean enough to steal a half-penny blotting pad?"

"But I do. I see a dozen cases of it a week."

"Who are the thieves?"

"Women, mostly. And when it isn't a woman it's a business man. Now, I'm going to stock up the desk again, and you hang around here for awhile and see what you can see."

"Three penholders, each supplied with a new pen, and three fresh pads of blotting paper were laid out, and the watcher took his seat on a window-sill. In about five minutes a young man with a brisk air rushed up to the desk, directed a postal card, and knocked one of the penholders off on the floor as he rushed off. The second comer was also a man, and he picked up the pen, directed a letter with it, gave a quick glance around him and pocketed one of the blotters. The third was a woman, who put on her glasses, wrote a postal, and coolly pocketed a penholder. Then a boy lounged up and stole another; and between two business men who used the other pen the second blotter was pocketed. This left only one penholder and one blotter. After seven or eight people had used them a woman with widow's weeds on directing a mourning envelope, stamped it and rolled the penholder up in the pad and pocketed both, regardless of who might be watching. She was not yet out of the building when a man rushed up to the desk, found nothing to write with, and pounded the walnut with his fist and growled out:

"I'll be hanged if I wouldn't like to twist that postmaster's neck! This shows how little care a public official has for the convenience of the public."—*Detroit Free Press.*

IT WAS APRIL 1st.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR J. D. KING, who is one of the most intelligent, vigilant and efficient officers in the service of the Post-office Department, and is known from Lake Michigan to the Gulf and the Mississippi to the Pacific coast, got back yesterday from a trip over what people call the star-routes, in San Miguel County, and while he was waiting down at the depot hotel this morning to take the fast train for the south and putting in his time giving an *Optic* reporter a good item, Deputy Sheriff Serapio Romero walked up to the genial inspector and informed him that he had a very unpleasant duty to perform. Mr. Romero is a model of true courtesy on all occasions, and the pained look upon his face showed that he felt genuine regret at the task his official position compelled him to carry through. Mr. King looked up with a startled expression in his face when he heard the mission of the deputy sheriff and asked to know why he was arrested. For reply, Mr. Romero showed him the warrant issued by the justice of the peace at Chaperito, in this county, in which the said King was charged with beating the proprietors of a buckboard line out of his fare while traveling through the country on his post-office inspection tour. Mr. King was overwhelmed with mortification when he read the charge, but he couldn't help himself, as the deputy sheriff was compelled to take him before U. S. Commissioner Salazar on the west side, where he would have a chance to give bond until his examination could take place. With dejected visage and heavy under-lip he made his way to the street car in charge of Under Sheriff Romero, and with an *Optic* reporter sitting by his side and seeking to console him, he went over to the west side and sought the commissioner's office. Mr. Salazar was looking after a case in court and could not leave the court-house, but Colonel Prichard, who was in the office, did what he could to cheer the drooping spirits of the inspector, and told him that it was only necessary to give bond for his appearance and he might go on his way. Mr. King looked mournfully around the room, wondering where he would get bondsmen, but the *Optic* reporter was the only friend, and his name wouldn't be taken upon any bond under any circumstances. The miserable man was in despair, and his wretched state of mind was in no wise relieved by the

remark of Jailer Clark, who had dropped in and stated that he would see to it that he, King, had plenty of blankets and a sufficiency of good food in jail. King groaned aloud when he heard this and seemed to realize for the first time the abject condition into which he had fallen. "Why, gentlemen, this is an outrage," he cried. "Here I am, an officer of the United States, faithfully attending to my duties, and I am actually threatened with being locked up on some absurd and frivolous charge prepared by a miserable, ignorant jack-ass of a justice of the peace. It's an infernal shame." Deputy Sheriff Romero, and Jailer Clark, and Colonel Prichard and the *Optic* reporter all heartily concurred in the sentiment, but didn't see how Mr. King was going to help himself over the painful circumstances surrounding his case. Harry Ruffner, assistant-postmaster on the west side, came in about this time and swore that it was a diabolical outrage, and Mr. King should give bond, no matter what the cost. King was kept in this agonizing position until Colonel Prichard, unable to keep a straight face any longer, broke into a very audible smile, and informed the despondent gentleman that this was the 1st of April, and he had been April-fooled in good shape. King broke for the door, and the subsequent drinks cost him \$1.85.—*La Vegas Optic*.

ST. GEORGE BEST

Receives the Verdict of His Guilt Stolidly.

ST. GEORGE BEST was yesterday found guilty on both counts of the indictment charging him with sending obscene literature through the mails. One count related to the vile work called "Fanny Hill," the other to Lord Rochester's poems, epigrams and plays. The jury was out about three-quarters of an hour. Best was attended all through the trying ordeal by his faithful wife, sister-in-law, and little child. The verdict was probably anticipated, or he had nerved himself up to meet the result with a heart for any fate that his continued violation of law had brought upon him. When the jury came in and handed in the verdict, guilty on both counts, Best received the verdict stolidly. Not a muscle in his face moved. There were no tell-tale tears, no effort to excite sympathy with laudanum vials. Neither he nor his wife showed any emotion of any sort. He sat next Jerry Kiersted, the Deputy Marshal, his little family on the other side. Part of the testimony that was introduced was so obscene in its nature, as extracts from the books had to be read to the jury, that Judge Sage considerably requested the ladies to withdraw, which they did, retiring to the Marshal's office. A motion was at once made for a new trial, which will be argued this morning.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

THE JAPANESE MAIL SERVICE.

A YOKOHAMA correspondent of the New York *Tribune* writes: "The mail service of Japan is seemingly as nearly perfect as any in the world. A mail steamer drops anchor in the bay at eleven A.M. The mail is taken to the post-office without delay. There it must all be re-addressed in Japanese characters, so that the native carriers can read the address. Notwithstanding all this necessary delay we get our letters and papers about half-past four or five P.M. the same day. Another singular feature of the Japanese mail service is this: If a steamer comes in late at night the mail suffers no delay, but we are rung out of bed to take our letters at midnight or later, as the case may be."

A POSTMASTER JAILED.

MANSFIELD, OHIO.—At a preliminary hearing before Mayor Clugston, Amos Bishop was held for trial, under bond of \$1,500, on the charge of selling land without a title, and in default of security was sent to jail. Bishop was arrested at Youngstown a few weeks ago, where he was in jail for larceny. He formerly lived in this city, but has since been postmaster at Boswell, Mahoning County. The charge for which he is now jailed is the selling of fifty acres of land in Pike County,

which he represented himself to own, to Oscar Dunham, of this city, who traded him a house and lot worth \$1,400 and \$400 for the land. Bishop then sold the house and lot and decamped, while Dunham was unable to secure the land in Pike County, as Bishop had no title to it.

DEATH OF A NEW POSTMASTER.

VALLEJO.—Professor W. F. Roe died in this city yesterday, of pneumonia and heart disease, after an illness of three or four days. The deceased had resided in this city for about a dozen years past, and was universally respected by those who knew him. For many years he was Professor of Languages in the public school here, and a couple of months ago was appointed postmaster. He was a native of Elmira, New York, and at the time of his death was sixty-three years of age. He leaves a widow and three sons, one of the latter, George Roe, being editor and proprietor of the *Vallejo Times*.—*California Paper*.

GROSSLY OBSCENE.

A Well-Known Sport Arrested for Sending Insulting Letters to a Young Lady.

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The detectives to-day arrested Wiley Bryan, one of the best-known sporting men in the city, and highly connected, and jailed him. It was with difficulty that the charge was ascertained, as Judge Allen, of the Criminal Court, stated that, were the facts known to the public, Bryan would be mobbed before morning. Bryan was arrested for sending obscene letters to Miss Fannie Dorman, one of the most popular and highly respected ladies of Nashville, with whom he is acquainted. The first letter was sent November 6th, and was given by her to her father, who at once put the detectives to work. The contents were indecent beyond description, and several others of the same sort followed. At last proof was gathered which implicated Bryan, and he was arrested. Your correspondent asked to see the letters, but was refused. "There isn't a sentence," said Attorney-General Washington, "which would not make the paper publishing it indictable." The case will come up at once in the Criminal Court, and will be the most sensational on record in this State.

THE POST-OFFICE DURING HOLIDAYS.

In a large city like Chicago the post-office forms one of the most important cogs in the machinery of civilization, and at no time does its importance swell to such immeasurable dimensions as during the few days preceding Christmas. The rush of people to mail presents and tokens of remembrance to distant friends reached its height yesterday, and the crowd that thronged the lobbies was something amazing. From 9 A.M. until 6 P.M. the tiled floors echoed with the tramp of hundreds of feet; the doors swung and banged continually; long lines of men and women awaited their turns at the retail stamp-windows, while others hurried to and fro depositing their letters and packages in the drops or taking up the time of the busy clerks with unanswerable questions. The stamp-clerk was the most overworked individual about the place, but the carrier had no easy time of it. He entered the office in the morning, still tired from the labors of the previous day, and began his weary task of arranging from the miscellaneous pile the mail matter which went to his route. He did not notice that this envelope had a mourning border or that that package evidently contained a handsome Christmas present for some one. He shuffled them through his hands one after another, looking only at the name of the street to which they were to be taken. No time to theorize or wonder. He realized that a big day's work was before him, and that he must be out with the morning delivery. Swinging the bulging mail-bag over his shoulder and grunting under its weight, he hurried out, both hands filled with matter to be delivered. In the mailing division every man of the limited force did two men's work, and so kept pace with the rush. "Everybody seems to

be sending presents by mail this year," said Supt. McGrath. "The volume of business done in this department is far in excess of that done last year, and is a sure indication that the times have improved. Although Christmas cards predominate, there is an increased number of valuable articles transmitted." In the registry division there was no rest for anybody. Several hundred packages containing articles of value were registered during the day, and this in addition to the regular daily business of the department. Every official and employé was up to his eyes in work, but they were all cheerful in the anticipation of a holiday on Christmas and an easier time thereafter.

IMMENSE ACCUMULATION OF MAIL.

THE arrival of the long-delayed trains and Eastern mails which had been on the road for nearly a fortnight gave the Denver Post Office the greatest amount of work that it has ever had at any one time in the whole history of the city, and it is doubtful if any city of its size in the country ever had such a pressure put upon its post-office. The mail that came over the Kansas Pacific yesterday was hauled from the Union Depot to the postoffice, in three four-horse wagons, and one four-horse wagon load of Santa Fé mail was brought into Denver by the Rio Grande. It is estimated that fully 500 mail pouches were received at the Denver Post Office yesterday. About forty-two sacks of registered matter came to the Denver Post Office yesterday, thirty of these sacks coming via the Santa Fé, and twelve by the Kansas Pacific. There were 1,359 packages of registered matter in all. All of this mail for points outside of Denver will go out by the first trains this morning. There were 150 newspaper sacks received at the office, and it is estimated that 175,000 letters, including letters for Denver and letters for outside points, passed through the Denver Post Office yesterday. All this immense amount of mail matter was distributed at the Denver Post Office. Three hundred sacks of mail matter were distributed in Denver for outside points yesterday. It is estimated on rather close calculations that 100,000 Denver letters were thrown by post-office employes yesterday. This is anything but an exaggeration, as there were eighteen sacks of Denver letters, containing between 5,500 and 6,000 letters each, received and distributed.—*Denver (Col.) News*.

IT PAYS TO BE BOYCOTTED.

NEW YORK, April 22d.—The postmen who deliver the mail at Mrs. Gray's boycotted bakery are only kept from open revolt by the softening influence of cakes and cookies which are given them as a sort of recompense for the extra amount of labor they are subjected to in delivering the letters which arrive from all parts of the country, directed to Mrs. Gray. Trade to-day was more brisk than on Wednesday, and it took all the help employed during the height of the boycott to wait upon customers.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

Superintendent of the Fifth Division.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Joseph R. Gwin, of Attica, Ind., was to-day appointed Superintendent of the Fifth Division of the Railway Mail Service, with headquarters at Cincinnati, vice A. Burt, resigned. Gwin says he has had ten years' experience in the service on the run between Pittsburg and St. Louis, and claims he was forced to resign four years ago on account of being an offensive Democrat. He was appointed when he first entered the service from Illinois at the instance of a Democratic Congressman, and also through a combination of soldier, Democratic and Republican influences. He gets the position now through the influence of leading Democrats of Indiana. Gwin is a tall, raw-boned man of middle age, and will probably make an acceptable officer. Burt retires on March 1st. with a splendid record. There were charges of a political character filed against him, as the position was very much wanted by the Democrats because it can be used to advantage in the campaigns.—*The Inter Ocean*.

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY.

Assistant-Superintendent Matter Tells What is the Trouble with it.

THE working of the special-delivery system was the subject of an interview with Mr. John Matter, the assistant-superintendent of carriers, yesterday, who said:

"The trouble about the system is, that the law does not seem to have been formed by a practical post-office man. For instance, there is no provision for night-delivery or for getting the fast-stamp letters to the branch offices. They go there by regular wagon. The service is much quicker than regular mail, but is unsatisfactory to those who want to know if their notes are received or desire an answer. The patronage is not sufficient to pay the boys, and they fall out of line every day. We started with a hundred and now we have—well, we will go down and see."

Down-stairs the superintendent of the messengers pointed to a list of names of the boys. It was scratched and disfigured like a corrected proof-sheet of figure work. Three boys had dropped off yesterday, and all that could be counted on were thirty-one at the general post-office and about twenty at the stations.

"In New York," said Mr. Matter, "they cannot get boys for what they can earn, and have been obliged to put on sub-carriers. The boys quit as fast as they can get other work, and none of them seems to regard his place as permanent. The patronage is falling off. In October, 1885, the first month in operation, we handled 9,231 letters by messenger, 7,483 being from other offices. We sent away 2,038. The service increased about 1,000 for November and December, and in January it dropped down to 4,962. The boys earned \$7.38 each the first month and \$7.33 the last month. To make the special stamp popular the letters should be delivered night and day, and the boys should be given car-fare. But people find that three deliveries in the forenoon and fourteen collections per day in the business center of the city is very satisfactory. When they want service faster they employ messengers and get their answers in return. If a man could mail a letter here at 6 o'clock in the evening for 35th street and know that a boy would start at once he'd do it. But he knows that it will not go after 4 in the afternoon, and he sends a messenger himself."

Postmaster Judd and Superintendent Donovan both deny the reports published yesterday morning that they or either of them have pronounced the special stamp a failure or made any comment in the figures in the report.

RAILROAD MAIL CLERKS.

Extract From the Postmaster-general's Report about Them.

"THE risks which necessarily attend the performance of duty by the persons engaged in the railway mail service are obvious, and upon the departmental records their consequences are painfully manifest.

"Death or serious injury is a peril of duty as certain, if not so great, as to a soldier of the army. It is incurred in rendering a service of high value to society. It needs no argument that a reciprocal obligation imposes care for them when accident befalls, and for their dependent families, when the injury to them is mortal.

"There exists some recognition of this duty in the statute which permits a leave of absence with pay during convalescence from injury, not exceeding twelve months. But this provision fails in the case where, most of all, providence is due them—when hurt permanently disables. Deprived then of the means of gaining a living, yet fated to live perhaps for years, the care of the Government ceases when most its aid is desirable. It is, moreover, the nature of the danger they encounter that a badly mangled body, in which yet long-enduring vitality remains, is the frequent object first drawn from the wreck of a railroad train. And when it is death the family is left deprived of any aid from or through that source which commonly has been the sole supply; and want is not infrequently supplemented by impotence.

"It is rare that they who have independent

means, adequate to a family's support, seek this employment, and still rarer when they who pursue it can honestly save a competence, from the compensation it affords, by any economy or privation.

"They are, and must be, trained and skilled men. To acquire ability to discharge well the duties of the higher classes they must serve in the lower for a considerable period, dependent somewhat on capacity, but extending in all cases at least to years. They are not in office so much as in a trade; and it is a trade whose utmost rewards are moderate, yet whose responsibilities are great; and where sterling character, as well as skill, is needed, because of the ever-present temptation.

"This service cannot be founded on thoroughly just principles, if it can be made thoroughly efficient, until a reasonable care is exercised by the Government for those on whom the misfortunes of its service strike hard.

"It would be, doubtless, vain to propose the dangerous civil pension as a remedy for their circumstances, to be drawn from the justice of the Government.

"But it ought not to be hopeless to urge the Government to furnish the means to enable them to help themselves; and that aid will be welcomed by them, as it is needful to them, from other circumstances affecting their situation."

HE WAS WELL STAMPED.

The Man Who Thought to Save Himself a Little Trouble—Consequences.

THERE was a comical incident at the post-office the other day that was directly due to the cold spell and which induced all but one of the parties concerned to almost excuse the blizzard that caused it. A man all muffled up presented himself before stamp-seller Basson's window, and handing out a silver dollar which he had conveniently in his hand, he asked for fifty 2-cent stamps. Mr. Basson handed them out in a block. The purchaser paused a moment as though in contemplation, then took off his hat, a soft one, and putting his stamps in it, pulled it closely down on his head.

He thought to save himself the trouble of loosening his wraps. Mr. Basson noticed that the stranger was unusually bald, having but a little fringe of hair around the lower part of his head, and feared for the stamps; but concluded to let his customer order his own affairs without interference.

In about half an hour the man came back. He walked with a hurried step, and the gleam in his eye was not wholly caused by the frigid blast. He marched up to Mr. Basson, and, taking off his hat, bent down his head and in a tone of reproach said:

"Look there!"

Mr. Basson did look, and saw what he declares to be the funniest thing he ever saw. That man's head was plastered all over with 2-cent postage-stamps, rimmed around with a little fringe of short, silky hair.

"He looked just like a Humpty Dumpty clown," declared Mr. Basson, "and I had to bend myself over and laugh till the tears ran out of my eyes. I asked the man what he put the stamps in his hat for, and he said, as though he was very much surprised, that they had varnish on them."

The unfortunate fellow got mad at Mr. Basson's mirth and angrily demanded what he should do.

"Ha! ha! You had better go to the next window and have them canceled," responded the stamp-dealer.

Then the stranger threatened to interview the postmaster and have the unsympathetic clerk discharged at once, and the rumpus brought several other clerks to the scene, who kindly directed the victim to "soak his head." Finally such a crowd of people gathered around and the stranger was so unmercifully geyed that he left, and probably did as he was told, soaked his head.—*Cincinnati Times-Star*.

MR. JAMES LAING, P. M., Persia, Ia., is not altogether satisfied with the conclusions of the Convention, and he expresses some ideas forcibly, which we hope to present to our readers.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 17TH.—The question of establishing postal savings banks is to be considered by the Post-office Committee of the House next Tuesday. So far as the opinions of members of the committee are known, a majority are believed to be opposed to the proposition, but the friends of the bill are hopeful that a full discussion of the subject among members of the committee will secure a favorable report to the House. The project is, to authorize deposits of small savings to be received at each of the money-order post-offices throughout the country, which would be equivalent to establishing over seven thousand savings banks where they would be conveniently accessible to every person. Under the provisions of the bill any one may buy 10-cent stamps, either one at a time or in sums of \$3. The stamps are to be stuck on a card, and this card, containing \$3 worth of such stamps, will be received at the post-office and credited to the depositor. Deposits are not to exceed a fixed total for any person, say \$100. The money received by the Government is to be turned into United States bonds, and whatever interest these may yield—at their present price about 2 per cent.—will, less the trifling expense of management, be due the depositors. It is supposed that this will encourage savings among the people of small means in all parts of the country, that the system will be especially popular in the southern and western states, where there are few banks, and that the low rate of interest will induce deposits only for temporary accumulation, with a view to permanent investment at more profitable rates.

ROBBING THE MAILS.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR KING who went south to-day has been hard at work for the past week in inspecting the Star routes in this county, and he has detected one mail-carrier in robbing the mails who will do the state some service when he is caught. On the night of March 2d, the mail came in by buckboard as usual to the city from Chaperito, and there were eight registers supposed to contain money. Assistant-Postmaster Harry Ruffner found, upon examination, that two of the packages had been robbed of their contents, about seventy-six dollars, and Post-office Inspector King, who was then at Denver, was at once notified by telegraph of the robbery. One Bowman keeps the post-office at Chaperito, and although he passed the registers through his hands and receipted for them as being all right, the evidence shows that he did so without knowing that two of the packages had been robbed. Mr. King, who came down from Denver and instituted a thorough examination into the matter, told Bowman that he should hold him responsible for the loss, and the latter at once set his wits to work to find out who the thief was. Telesfor Lucero, the mail-carrier who brought the mail into Chaperito, was, from circumstantial evidence, soon spotted as the guilty man, and he is now on the wing with a deputy U. S. marshal in pursuit. He confessed his guilt before he ran away, and when he is caught he is sure to be convicted.—*La Vegas Optic*.

POSTAL RELICS.

MARIETTA, O., Feb. 22.—A few days ago workmen remodeling the old post-office building at the corner of Front and Putnam Streets, Marietta, O., found an old-fashioned mail sack marked "Hon. R. J. Meigs, General Postmaster," with paint on the back. Many ancient papers and documents were in it dating back to the first of this century.—*Commercial Gazette*.

POST-OFFICE BURGLARY.

MINGO, O., February 23.—The post-office at this place was broken into last night and goods to the amount of \$10 taken, including a good revolver, a razor with the number 52 stamped on the blade, also tobacco, cigars and 50c. in money. Several letters were rifled.—*Commercial Gazette*.

FROM A REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN.

ALTHOUGH, as Senator Ingalls asserted in his recent speech, the Postmaster-general has turned out 8,000 Republican postmasters from office during the last year, or one for every fifteen minutes that the administration has been in power, both the Democrats and Republicans feel that it would be better for their respective parties if the list was a good deal longer. As the Congressional campaigns are opening throughout the country, the Republican Congressmen find that the postmasters upon whom they have depended for much of their political work are not showing the zeal that they have formerly displayed in working up booms and mending fences. One Republican Congressman said the other day that there had been very few removals in his district, "but I wish," he said, "that every mother's son of them were turned out. The political organization is entirely in the hands of the postmasters. We have no large cities and no large Federal offices and only a few first-class postmasters. Therefore the fourth-class postmasters have always been depended upon by me to look after the primaries and the convention, and have been very effective in keeping up the organization and the party and the interests of the people. This year, however, I cannot get one of them to do a thing. Every fellow hopes to hold on to his place, provided somebody does not make a charge of offensive partisanship against him, and he is standing up so straight that he leans over backward toward the Democratic party. It would be a favor to me, and a favor to the Republican interests in my State, if Vilas would turn every blessed one of them out." It is not necessary to say that these remarks are sincerely sympathized with by the Democrats. They would be glad to see the wish of the Republicans realized.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

NO MORE "DOCTORING."

THE following order from the Postmaster-general will interest many fourth-class postmasters and their patrons: It having been ascertained that some postmasters at fourth-class post-offices have, for the purpose of increasing their compensation, engaged in the practice of soliciting the mailing of matter at their offices that should properly be mailed at offices where the compensation of the postmaster would not be thereby affected, or of receiving such matter under some agreement with and to the advantage of the person mailing it, the effect in such cases being a loss to the Government of a portion of its lawful revenue, notice is given that in future the department will treat all such cases in accordance with the following new section of the postal regulations, which is hereby adopted:

Sec. 370½. Every postmaster at a fourth-class office is forbidden to solicit from any person residing or doing business within the delivery of any other post-office, or from any agent of such person, the deposit for mailing at his office of any mail-matter, or to enter into any agreement or to have any understanding with any person whatever whereby, either for or without consideration, matter that is to be sent through the mails is procured to be mailed at the office of such postmaster. The violation of this regulation will subject the offending postmaster to dismissal from office.

OBED CHOPMAN, 72 years of age, the mail-carrier on route No. 5,175, between Glastonbury and Hartford, Conn., has experienced a great deal of trouble in getting his mail properly sorted and placed in separate bags so as to enable him to make his two round-trips daily with much less delay than that to which he was subjected. He appealed to the Hartford postmaster, but nothing was done to help him. He wrote the Second Assistant-Postmaster-general, but received no reply. Finally, tiring of waiting upon others, he wrote President Cleveland, stating his case fully, and it was not long before the necessary orders were issued by the Department, affording old man Chopman the relief he sought. We shall publish his letters next month.

I'M GOING TO WRITE A LETTER TO PAPA.

BY WILL S. HAYS.

I'm going to write a letter to papa:
I guess he'd like to hear
What his little girl is doing
The same as when he's near.
I'll tell him how I missed him,
And how I wish he'd come,
And never, never leave us,
But always stay at home.

I'll tell him 'bout my dolly,
She's sleeping on the floor;
I fear that noise will wake her,
Oh, please don't slam the door;
"For I must not be bothered,"
That's what my ma would say
When she begins a letter,
And sends me off to play.

I'll send him lots of kisses
And one bright, shining curl;
I'll ask him to remember
His lonely little girl.
I want so much to see him,
But I won't cry a wink,
'Cause, when I write my letter
The tears would blot my ink.

I'm going to write to papa,
And oh, how glad he'll be
To get a little letter,
That's written all by me.

THE STAMP CLERK'S WORK.

Eight Hundred and Seventy-three Persons Waited On in Seven Hours.

ONE of the clerks in the Retail Stamp Department of the Chicago Post-office was observed on Monday to keep in front of him all day a box of dried beans. This led to many jokes at his expense—one wanting to know if he dealt in beans now, another whether he "knew beans," and another whether that was where he "lived and moved, and had his bean."

The truth is, he was counting his customers. Every time he waited on one of them, he would take a bean out of one box and drop it into another box. His window was open seven hours during the day, and when he closed it in the evening he counted his beans. He then found out that he had waited on 390 people in the forenoon and 483 in the afternoon, making a total of 873. His receipts during the day were \$505, and the average amount sold to a customer was about 58 cents' worth. Monday is the busiest day in the week at the stamp department, and these figures are not often exceeded, though it is not unlikely that a clerk will occasionally wait on as many as 1,000 people in a day. The amount of labor involved in such a day's work is no joke, as will be seen by considering the nature of the transactions. Very many of the orders given the clerks by their customers are like this: "Give me fifteen twos, twenty-five fours, six postal cards and the rest of a dollar and a half in fives;" or like this, generally by ladies or foreigners: "Give me a dozen ones, a dozen and a half of twos, half a dozen fives, and the rest in stamped envelopes at 56 cents a package." There is no time for figuring, and the clerk has to do these sums off-handed and with great rapidity. Not only so, but these mental operations have to be carried on under the eyes of a dozen impatient customers, who are often bawling out their orders to him, and even slapping down their money on the window with a report like a pistol, sometimes right in the midst of the change he is paying out to some one else. After seven hours of this work it is said that the clerk feels as if the earth was a barren waste and life

"—a fleeting show,
For man's delusion given."

—*Chicago Journal*.

CUPID'S POST-OFFICE.

A Cigar Store That Contains Many Secrets.

THRONGS of hurrying people were hastening along one of those great thoroughfares which traverse the metropolitan heart. The white glare of the electric light cast a corpse-like pallor upon the varied countenances of the scurrying multitude. A reporter stopped at a tobacco shop which was quite like the majority of its kind. The tomahawk of the figure at the door bore the legend, "I'll hit you real hard." Through the curtained doorway could be heard the tinkle of a mandolin. A muffled

form went in. It was a brigandish figure, capped with a cylindrical hat. The reporter heard the salutation and answer:

"Buenas tardes, senorita."
"Buenas tardes, senor."

Within five minutes the brigand reappeared and a brace of letters which he had clutched in his gloved hand were there no longer. The reporter ventured to open the door and found himself in the peristyle of a Cupid's cross-town temple. The presiding priestess was dozing upon a divan behind the cigarette counter. Above her hung a case with numerous pigeonholes filled with perfumed letters of the *billetdoux* kind. It was a "quiet" post-office, and the senorita was the postmistress. Men came and went, bringing letters, leaving letters, wreathed in the same made-to-order beatific smile and all pronouncing in the very same manner "buenas tardes," which was the password. Suddenly a secret door opened from the hallway of a flashy flat-house under which the dubious shop was situated.

"Alma mia," murmured the young lady who entered, with a heavy tragedy accent and a well-developed Delsartean sigh. "A letter, Rosie, or I die."

A letter was produced, for Rosie never disappoints her paying customers. Tranquilized, the young woman drew her veil tightly across her face. She had noticed the stranger. Then she asked of the senorita:

"How long since hubbie was here?"

"An hour ago," was the distressed response.

"Have you any more of those dear little cigarettes?" she articulated, and after pocketing a package or two the young woman was off with a rush.

The reporter asked the postmistress how business was.

"Madre di dios!" was the reply. "Thanks to the ever increasing progeny of fools, business is good, and the holiday season as yet not at hand. I get a dime for every letter delivered, and am so popular among my patrons that—well, the perquisites are not inconsiderable."

Then the reporter was permitted to examine the letters. Some were written in Fifth avenue script and some from Hoboken or thereabouts. Some bore the name of a well-known club and others came from where the aboriginal tribe is worshiped exclusively.—*New York Herald*.

ROBBED THE MAILS FOR YEARS.

BEVERLY, MASS., April 22d.—Edward T. Shaw, who for twelve years has carried the mail between the local post-office and the railway station, was arrested to-day. He confessed to having systematically robbed the mails for several years, taking between three and five thousand letters, and obtaining upwards of \$1,500.

INTERNATIONAL CHEAP POSTAGE.

A MOTION is to be made in the British House of Commons by Mr. Reid, member for Birmingham, looking to the establishment of a two-cent rate of letter postage between Great Britain and the United States. This is a matter in which our people are vitally interested, and it is to be hoped that all efforts to cheapen international letter postage will be ably seconded by our Congress.—*New York World*.

POSTMASTER ARRESTED.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 1.—Federal authorities here to-night ordered the arrest of Postmaster Sims, of Edinburg, Ind., and the United States marshal left on the night train to get him. An advertisement appeared in a Cincinnati paper recently signed "Inez Victoria La Grande, general delivery, Indianapolis," offering to send a very valuable recipe for beautifying the complexion, and a great many letters were received with the money inclosed. They were held here and a request was made through the mail to send them to "Lock box W., Edinburg, Ind." A special postal agent investigated the matter, and alleges that the postmaster at Edinburg was an accomplice of the woman in a swindling scheme to get money.

POST-OFFICE APPROPRIATION BILL COMPLETED.

THE House Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads to-day completed the Post-office Appropriation Bill, and it will be promptly reported to the House. The Bill appropriates for the postal service the next fiscal year the sum of \$54,326,588, an increase of \$625,598 over the appropriation for the present fiscal year and a decrease of \$659,579 as compared with the department's estimates. The estimated revenue for the next fiscal year is \$47,142,252, and the estimated deficiency (indefinite) is \$7,443,914. The principal items of appropriation are as follows: For compensation to postmasters, \$11,700,000; appropriations for present year, \$12,300,000. For compensation to clerks in post-offices, \$5,150,000, or the same as present year's appropriation. For rent, light and fuel, \$495,000; appropriation for the present year, \$490,000. For free delivery services, \$4,928,531; appropriation for present year, \$4,485,000. For star-route transportation, \$5,850,000; appropriation for present year, \$5,900,000. Steamboat service, \$575,000; appropriation for present year, \$615,000. Mail messenger service, \$900,000; appropriation for present year, \$975,000. Mail bags and catchers, \$260,000; appropriation for present year, \$275,000; railroad transportation, \$15,595,432; appropriation for present year, \$14,010,000; railway postal-car services, \$1,808,000; appropriation for present year, \$1,765,000; for railway post-office clerks, \$4,800,000; appropriation for present year, \$4,682,300; necessary and special facilities on trunk lines (fast mail), \$251,725; appropriation for present year, \$266,764; for manufacture of stamped envelopes, wrappers, etc., \$583,500; appropriation for present year, \$745,000. For transportation of foreign mails, \$375,000; appropriation for present year, \$390,000; estimate for next year, \$350,000. To this estimate the Committee append the following note: If it should be decided to pay the vessels of the United States register sea and inland postage, then the additional sum of \$75,000 should be added to the estimate. For balance due foreign countries, \$100,000; appropriation for present year, \$75,000.

THE KILBYS.

A Maine Family Who Have Been for Ninety Years in a Post-Office.

THE Mugwumps should call for the facts in the case of ex-Postmaster Kilby, just removed from the office at Dennysville, Washington County, Me., to make room for a Democrat.

Dennysville is an ancient town near Eastport. The population at the time of the last census was 522. The inhabitants cultivate the stony soil of their township for potatoes and crab apples, and they farm the sea for hake, haddock, and early tomcod. That it is a community founded on patriarchal ideas is proved by the circumstance that the postmastership has always been regarded as an hereditary office. The primitive simplicity of the people in their political relations is shown by the election returns. For many years Dennysville has contained not more than eight or nine Democratic voters. The post-office is worth \$200 or \$300 a year.

The Lewiston *Journal* publishes the remarkable statement that, previous to the appointment of a Democratic postmaster at Dennysville, the office had been retained in a single family for ninety years. While it may seem presumptuous to doubt the accuracy of any such assertion in Congressman Dingley's newspaper—so minute and far-reaching is its knowledge of neighborhood affairs in the State of Maine—the fact here alleged is astonishing enough to require verification. We have taken pains to examine the official records of the post-office so far as they are accessible—that is to say, for seventy years back—and we find that they support the statement of the Lewiston *Journal* in every particular. The office of postmaster at Dennysville has been hereditary in the Kilby family for almost a century.

The first twenty years of the Kilby dynasty are partly lost in the obscurity that so often dims historic beginnings. The original Kilby

was appointed by President George Washington during his second term of office. His Christian name and the Christian name of his descendants who served under John Adams and Thomas Jefferson might possibly be discovered by patient investigation of local records, or by happy accident, in the lumber-room of the General Post-office at Washington. We are unable at present to give them to our readers. The one thing certain is, that they were all true Kilbys.

What we may term the prehistoric period of the Kilby postmastership ended during the second Administration of President Madison. In 1816, in obedience to an act of Congress passed April 27th of that year, the Government began to print an official register of all the officeholders of the United States. The second issue of this register was in 1819; since then it has been published biennially, gradually increasing from the size of a primary-school spelling-book to the dimensions of an unabridged dictionary. We have therefore a complete, unbroken, and unassailable record of the Dennysville postmastership for the last seventy years. From the time-stained pages of the earliest edition down to the most recent issue of the register, the name of some Kilby or other appears in every volume as Postmaster at Dennysville, Maine:

Year.	Postmaster.	Compensation.	Administration.
1816—	William Kilby	\$123.93	Madison.
1819—	William Kilby	12.29	Monroe.
1821—	William Kilby	16.82	Monroe.
1823—	William Kilby	16.91	Monroe.
1825—	William Kilby	20.73	J. Q. Adams.
1827—	John Kilby	27.11	J. Q. Adams.
1829—	John Kilby	24.09	Jackson.
1831—	John Kilby	25.30	Jackson.
1833—	John Kilby	26.16	Jackson.
1835—	John Kilby	36.71	Jackson.
1837—	John Kilby	54.85	Van Buren.
1839—	John Kilby	54.68	Van Buren.
1841—	John Kilby	61.36	Harrison.
1843—	John Kilby	116.53	Tyler.
1845—	John Kilby	60.35	Polk.
1847—	John Kilby	100.83	Polk.
1849—	John Kilby	112.56	Taylor.
1851—	John Kilby	145.45	Fillmore.
1853—	John Kilby (to Aug. 30)	...	Pierce.
1853—	C. H. Kilby	111.40	Pierce.
1855—	Benjamin Kilby	188.25	Pierce.
1857—	Benjamin Kilby	129.34	Buchanan.
1859—	Benjamin Kilby	147.83	Buchanan.
1861—	Benjamin Kilby	164.43	Lincoln.
1863—	Benjamin Kilby	238.56	Lincoln.
1865—	Benjamin Kilby	286.26	Lincoln.
1867—	Benjamin Kilby	190.00	Johnson.
1869—	Benjamin Kilby	190.00	Grant.
1871—	Benjamin Kilby	190.00	Grant.
1873—	Benjamin Kilby	220.00	Grant.
1875—	Benjamin Kilby	212.69	Grant.
1877—	Howard H. Kilby	219.90	Hayes.
1879—	Howard H. Kilby	195.37	Hayes.
1881—	Howard H. Kilby	220.00	Garfield.
1883—	Howard H. Kilby	261.74	Arthur.
1885—	Howard H. Kilby	...	Cleveland.

We venture the surmise that the apparently excessive tenure of John Kilby, reaching from John Quincy Adams in 1827 to Franklin Pierce in 1853, may be due to the fact that there were two postmasters of that name, a John I. and a John II. It is also probable that the C. H. Kilby who held office between John and Benjamin was a mere regent, a stop-gap, as it were, placed temporarily in charge of the office at the demise of John H. to sell postage-stamps until the return of John II.'s legitimate successor, Benjamin, from some lumbering expedition up the St. Croix or some fishing trip in the Bay of Fundy.—*New York Sun*.

EX-POSTMASTER ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLING STAMPS.

FORT WAYNE, IND.—Deputy U. S. Marshal Wilkinson to-day arrested Daniel Patterson at Keystone, south of this place, for embezzlement of postage stamps while acting as postmaster at that place two years ago. He was appointed postmaster in place of William Walker, who was sent to the penitentiary for ten years for killing George Shaw in a street fight. Patterson had the office some time, but as he could not procure bonds, was released, but failed to account for the stamps he sold, and left this part of the country, and has since resided in Dakota. Walker's bondsmen had to make up the shortage to the Government. Patterson came home yesterday unexpectedly, but was arrested soon after, and will have his trial before Commissioner Harper next Monday.

A TECHNICAL OFFENSE.

HERBERT M. DANFORTH, a letter-carrier, who has been in the service about a year and who is believed to be a thoroughly honest young man, was arrested yesterday on the complaint of a post-office inspector for a technical violation of the law. The worst thing that Danforth is accused of is removing the canceled stamps from some foreign letters which were to be delivered on his route. The stamps, of course, were utterly valueless, the letters from which they were taken being delivered intact. When charged with the act by the inspector he frankly admitted it, saying that his only object was to get a collection of foreign stamps, as some of his fellow-employers were doing. He said that it had never occurred to him that he was doing anything wrong, and he could not see even yet where he had wronged any one, unless it might be that the owners of the letters would have preserved the stamps for the same purpose. When told to put his statement in writing, he did so without hesitation. Then he was taken before Commissioner Hoyne, and told that a warrant was going to be issued for his arrest. Danforth turned pale at this, and for some moments he could not speak a syllable. He seemed to realize his position for the first time—dishonored, disgraced, and his consequent dismissal from the service without character. As soon as he could speak he told the commissioner in tremulous tones that he was not a thief, that he had never been tempted to steal, and that the canceled stamps had been taken without any attempt at secrecy. He had never dreamed of violating the law. Commissioner Hoyne could not wholly conceal his disgust that such a case had been brought before him, and he continued it until 2 o'clock this afternoon, Danforth giving bond in \$500 for his appearance. There is little doubt that the prisoner will be discharged.—*Chicago Times*.

MAIL-ROBBERS.

CLOVERDALE.—Owing to the bad roads at Mendocino City, the mail and express have been carried by pack-horses. Last night about ten o'clock the train was stopped by two masked robbers and the express ransacked four miles beyond Cloverdale. Word was at once brought to town and parties started in pursuit. The robbers were tracked to town, and from that nothing further has been learned. They obtained nothing valuable, for at this time of the year the treasure-ships are very light.—*San Francisco Post*.

THE postal system has been detailed in almost infinite variety, yet it may be of interest to some readers of the MAIL to know something more about it. Did you ever think what becomes of the money you pay the postmaster for your money order? It is kept by him to pay orders drawn upon his office; and should he, at any time, receive more than is necessary to pay orders drawn upon his office, the surplus is remitted to some larger office; for instance, Iowa Falls remits to Chicago. The operations of the money-order system are almost perfect, so nearly so that a person to whom money is sent can invariably get it. The postmaster's life in some respects is a hard one, so many things cause him needless trouble and annoyance. For instance, a great many people put the stamp on the wrong corner, thus subjecting their letters to delay or miscarriage. Whenever the stamp is on the wrong corner he must strike the letter twice with the stamp, in order to cancel the stamp and postmark the envelope. We might add that the stamp should be placed upon the upper right hand corner. Also that the address should never cover more than the lower two-thirds of the envelope. Another great difficulty is the delivery of letters to persons of similar names. There are also letters that occasionally, through haste or mistake, get into the wrong boxes, and are opened by persons to whom they do not belong. It would be well if every one knew that the penalty for opening a letter addressed to some one else varies from a fine not exceeding \$500 to imprisonment for ten years.

The United States Mail.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - - \$2.00
SIX MONTHS, - - - - - 1.00
SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - 20 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - - - - - ONE DOLLAR.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, EDITOR.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.

Entered at the Post-office at New York for transmission through the mails at second-class postal rates.

MAY, 1886.

CHICAGO, 108 LA SALLE STREET.
NEW YORK, 53, 55 AND 57 PARK PLACE.

THE SITUATION.

THE situation with regard to the work of securing national legislation is practically unchanged from the last report. The total amount of moneys received up to Friday, May 7th, was \$991.75. Out of that must come the expenses incurred, such as the publication of the Appeal in the *Official Postal Guide* for March, printing, postage, etc., and the cost of the trip of the Memorial Committee to Washington. The receipts average, at this date, from \$10 to \$20 per day, but within a week they will sink to half that, and within two weeks to a quarter, and in three they will cease altogether.

It is evident, therefore, that the \$2,000 asked for cannot be raised, and, so far as we are personally concerned, we ask that *no further contributions be sent in*. The National Committee may take up the matter again at a later day and make a further effort, but for the present, at least, *we want no more money sent to us*.

Our readers will remember that it was our desire that \$2,000 be contributed as a fund to liquidate past expenses, and also to enable at least twenty members of the National Committee to meet in Washington at an early day for consultation, and to use their persuasive powers upon Congressmen to favor the Postmasters' Bill. This we regarded as of vital importance, and appealed as strongly as we knew how to our friends to sustain us in the move. The result, however, is not satisfactory, and the contest, in so far as personal visitation is concerned, is practically at an end. It is not unlikely that we may make another trip to Washington late this month or early in May, in order to learn the exact situation of affairs, and to make a full report to our readers of the situation and prospects; but all hope of a *combined move*, of one general assault, must be given up. We, for one, will oppose any members of the National Committee going to Washington *at their own personal expense*. It is too much to ask, and would be unfair and unjust to expect them to do so. If 51,000 men who are interested in this move cannot and will not contribute the insignificant sum of \$2,000 to feather their own nests, then they will have no one to blame but themselves if the present movement should prove a total and complete failure. The \$991.75 sent in was contributed by 735 persons. *Their names and post-office addresses will be published in the June issue of this paper, as will also all who contribute between now and then.*

This is really a sad admission for us to make, and we would not make it if we had any circulation outside of postal circles. We do not want the outside world to hear of such a disgraceful state of affairs, for if it were to get out, we would be ridiculed, and Congress would sit down upon us so hard that when it got up, we would be *non est inventus*. There would not be a finger-mark where we had been, and our mothers, even, would not be able to discover our remains.

The Appeal of the National Committee found its way into every post-office in the United States through the *Official Postal Guide*; it has been republished in the issues of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and it would be safe to say that five thousand *personal letters* have been written by the National Committee and postmasters who are taking an active interest in the cause. We ourselves sent a personal circular letter to 1,500 third-class postmasters, asking for help, and stating why the case was urgent. We sent out *eight thousand extra copies* of THE UNITED STATES MAIL for April, one of which was sent to every third-class office in the country, and the balance to postmasters appointed by the present Administration. After all this begging has been done, the result is before us, and it is enough to turn one's blood into water and make us lose all faith in human endeavor.

So far as we are personally concerned, we have fully determined to never again make any appeal to postmasters for money to carry on this work, but shall leave the matter entirely in the hands of the National Committee. We are as firmly as ever convinced of the justice and righteousness of the cause for which we have been laboring, and shall never cease in our efforts to do what we can to ameliorate the condition of third and fourth class postmasters. It is appalling, nay, it is shameful, that a Government so just, so good and grand in all its conceptions, should treat such a large body of its public servants with such manifest unfairness! It is incomprehensible! But, as we have said before, postmasters are altogether themselves to blame, and when we say that, we mean *Republican postmasters*, for they have been in power a quarter of a century and have stood back like suckling calves and accepted, uncomplainingly, every unfavorable legislative enactment that has been put upon the books! They have allowed Congress to sit down upon them in every possible way, and, no matter how unjust or unfair any proposed postal measure might be, they have never as much as made a grunt as a sign of their disapprobation. All postal legislation for the last ten years has been directly in the interest of first and second class offices. They are regarded as political plums, as rewards for political services to the men who get into Congress, and it is fixed and arranged that they must contribute to the political fortunes of the M. C. who controls them. Therefore, their office expenses are paid by the Government and special allowances are made them, which, if asked for by a third-class postmaster, would consign him to a lunatic asylum. Then, again, postal laws are enacted in the interest of the Press and public, so to speak, but really and entirely in the interest of Congressmen. The rate on second-class matter was reduced to one cent per pound, in order to tickle the sensibilities of the Press. In other words, a premeditated, systematic, barefaced robbery was perpetrated upon the National Treasury to gain the applause of the newspapers; and, of course, any Congressman who voted for that swindle would naturally expect the support of the Press in his efforts at re-election; for an idiot could quickly discover that

the Government cannot begin to carry that class of mail-matter at the reduced rate. Measures are being constantly introduced cutting off the revenues of the Post-office Department and increasing its expenses. There are even now two Bills, one of which has passed the House and is now in the Senate, and the other has been recommended by the House Post-office Committee, which, if they become a law, will have a most injurious effect upon the revenues of the department, and, as a consequence, upon third and fourth class postmasters—that is, in the way of securing relief. We refer to the WARNER Bill to reduce the fees on money orders and to the DOCKERY Bill to extend the letter-carrier system to cities of ten thousand population; and, perhaps, the most ridiculously absurd measure introduced this session is the Bill of Senator DAWES to make all second-class mail matter deliverable at second-class rates at *all* offices of publication, which, in other words, means, for example, that the three hundred and ninety-one newspapers and magazines published in Chicago *shall be delivered to their Chicago subscribers by the letter-carriers at the Chicago Post-office*. We have in this city 321 carriers, and yet if the DAWES Bill becomes a law, two thousand would instantly be required to do the work of the office. Mr. DOCKERY fathers the scheme to extend the letter-carrier system to the small cities, and he does it in the face of the fact that he *knows* it will cost the Government \$1,200,000 to do it. But, you see, Mr. DOCKERY is working for Mr. DOCKERY. His plea is to extend the benefits of the free delivery, and upon *that* he will make political capital and thus seek to extend his Congressional term, and yet, when Mr. DOCKERY is approached in the interest of the PETERS Bill, which is designed to benefit the men who control his political fortunes, he turns pale and trembles, and talks of economy in our public expenditures, and doubts the wisdom of the movement just at *this* time, and intimates that the Democratic party is pledged to economy and reform. This is all nice enough, and could be taken as a sugar-coated blue-mass pill if Mr. DOCKERY was carrying out that principle in his other official acts, but when we know to the contrary, his assertions make us weak, and, we might say, *feeble*. Were we a postmaster, we would seek to cut the political throat, *from ear to ear*, of every Congressman who failed to vote for the PETERS Bill. We would call upon our neighbors and friends to come to our rescue, and we would knife him so effectually that his political life would end eternally and for ever.

Gentlemen! We mean business!! We went into this movement from principle. We believed it was right, and have done our full duty toward you. While we are disgusted at the manner at which we have been sustained, yet we will not desert them at this critical hour. We think too much of the men who have shown an interest in the cause, and propose to do all we can for them until success comes.

Nothing good or great is ever obtained in this life without earnest endeavor, and whenever a principle or cause is triumphant, it is the result of vigorous effort. Now let every postmaster who reads these words ask himself: "What have I done to further this cause? Have I done my duty? *Have I written my Congressman and my Senators?* Did I get up a petition to Congress?"

Now that there will be no meeting of the National Committee in Washington, let every postmaster who has any interest in this cause, address his Congressman a letter by first mail and earnestly request him to have the PETERS

Bill, No. 7,474, taken up, acted upon and passed. *This is your last and only hope!*

THE POSTMASTERS' MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

We are being importuned every day in regard to the status of the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association. Postmasters inquire what it was the Convention authorized, and also what has been done to effect such an organization.

The Convention recommended that an Association of that character be established. There was no question as to its value and utility. All believed that it would be a wise and prudent measure. The trouble was, however, that but one person took any particular interest in the question, and nothing tangible was done by the Convention looking toward organization, until ten minutes before it adjourned. Then it was that Mr. SAM. A. RISLEY, of West Plains, Mo., got up and proposed that, in order to get the thing into motion, a temporary organization be effected, and named three gentlemen as an Executive Committee, and three others as officers—President, Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was put and carried.

Mr. RISLEY had taken no special interest in the scheme, and only made the move because he was approached by PERRY RUSSELL, P. M., Jefferson, Ill., and importuned to do so; stating that unless he did so, nothing would be accomplished in the way of getting into working order, and handed Mr. RISLEY a paper with the names of gentlemen he desired for the necessary officers, putting himself down as Treasurer.

After the Convention adjourned, some of the Committee began to look around and see what could be done in regard to incorporation, etc., and it was discovered that, according to the laws of Illinois, a Mutual Benefit Association could not be incorporated unless two hundred persons combined together, and agreed to take a policy in it, provided it was incorporated.

Now what was done in regard to carrying out the terms of the law we do not know, only we *do know* that up to this date it has *not* been incorporated.

A few weeks since we began to receive letters of inquiry in regard to the Association, as to whether it was all right or not, and it was soon discovered that blank applications for membership were being sent out all over the country, and that the person who was responsible therefor was PERRY RUSSELL, who signed himself *Secretary and Treasurer*.

Mr. RUSSELL also issued a circular letter reading as follows:

JEFFERSON, ILL., 1886.

DEAR SIR.—Your letter of recent date is at hand, and contents noted. In reply, I would state that it will require but \$5 to become a member of our Association—\$4 for initiation and \$1 for first assessment. All postmasters, assistant-postmasters, and all persons in the postal service under fifty years of age, are eligible after having passed the required medical examination. Discharge from the service does not nullify your insurance so long as you pay your assessments. This office will furnish you with all necessary information upon application.

Fraternally yours,

PERRY RUSSELL,
Secretary and Treasurer.

There is a very artistic heading printed to the above, giving the names of the officers of the Association, with an added paragraph that all communications should be made to PERRY RUSSELL, Jefferson, Cook Co., Ill. The post-office addresses of the other officers, however, are omitted.

Now, the only inferences we can draw from the above, are:

First, Mr. RUSSELL assumes all the responsi-

bility of organization before an organization is effected.

Second, He assumes the position of Secretary and Treasurer without a shadow of authority. Mr. JOHN M. ROLSTON, of Kensington, Ill., was elected Secretary by the Convention. Whether that gentleman resigned or refused to serve, we are not advised.

Third, Mr. RUSSELL is evidently proceeding upon the theory that he can go ahead with the business of issuing policies, and proceeds to get out his blank applications, and announces the principles upon which the affairs of the Association will be conducted. He places the limit upon the ages of those who will be received, he fixes the initiation fee, and also the amount of the first assessment.

Fourth, All he has done is illegal and is a violation of law. He had no more right or authority to do what he has done, than he has to enter the Chicago Post-office and rifle the vaults of its money.

We have a letter from Major SACRISTE, P. M., at La Grange, Ill., who was elected President of the temporary organization, disclaiming all knowledge of RUSSELL's proceedings, and he says that he distinctly informed him that no effort must be made to get any money out of postmasters. Major SACRISTE is a man of the strictest honor and integrity, and his word is as good as that of any man in the State of Illinois. His motives are purity itself, and he would no more countenance a questionable proceeding than he would jump into Lake Michigan. In fact, all the other gentlemen associated with RUSSELL in this affair are men of the highest character, and we will wager our blood that they have no knowledge of his actions. The fact is, that RUSSELL is a man of very limited education, and if postmasters were appointed upon Civil Service rules, he could not pass an examination for sweeper. He has no more talent and capacity for the organization of a great Benevolent Association than he has for the presidency of Harvard University.

We can only say, in conclusion, that if we hear of any further attempts upon the part of RUSSELL to enter into this business, we will give him a "send off" that will make his hair curl.

THE HON. GEO. H. PAUL, P. M., Milwaukee, in sending in a renewal of his subscription to THE UNITED STATES MAIL, takes occasion to "kick" against the manner in which we caricatured first and second class postmasters in our issue of last month.

We present in this issue a splendid portrait of Mrs. FRANK LESLIE, of New York—the head of the great Publishing House. We know our readers would be glad to see the lady who was liberal enough and generous enough to contribute \$100 toward defraying the expenses of the Postmaster's Convention. She did it because she is their friend, and believes in the justice of their cause.

THE man who fails to write his Congressman to support the PETERS Bill will come far short in his duty. If each and every M. C. were to receive twenty or thirty letters next week calling his attention to the subject, he would be frightened into its support, even if he did not take much interest in it. We have but one favor to ask of our subscribers, and that is that they will take our advice in this matter, and do this for us. Ten minutes in time and four cents in cash from five thousand postmasters would put that Bill through with a rush. It is your only salvation!! There is not much left for us to do.

HOW TO RAISE THE MONEY.

We refer to the fact in another column that the effort to raise \$2,000 to send twenty members of the National Executive Committee to Washington to aid in forcing the passage of the PETERS Bill had failed. We are not sure but that we ourselves stand as a stumbling-block in the way of raising the money, and with that idea in view, we desire to present a new scheme to raise the necessary "needful" to carry on the work of the Committee.

It is not improbable that many postmasters have a lurking suspicion that this entire movement is in the interest of THE UNITED STATES MAIL instead of third and fourth class postmasters, and that it is proving a regular bonanza for JOHN H. PATTERSON, and for that reason, thinking we will make a dollar, fail to contribute to the fund, or to subscribe to the paper. Of course, it was to be expected that more or less benefit would accrue to the paper on account of its prominence in the contest, and because it is the only postal journal in the United States. That could not be helped; but that we commenced this agitation with our own interests in view, is not true. The more we studied the situation the more we were convinced that we had entered upon a righteous contest, and the further we got into it, the more determined we were to continue it. It is not our desire to compliment ourselves upon our work, but it may not be amiss to state that we have given it of our time almost constantly since November 25th. We left our family in Cincinnati, and came to Chicago at that time, and never left it until after the Convention, except when absent upon Convention business. When here, we directed the affairs of the Committee, and gave it our undivided attention almost constantly, seldom ever leaving the Committee room until nine, ten, and eleven o'clock at night. We are entirely correct when we affirm that it was an unselfish devotion to a worthy cause. If, in return, we had received a tremendous increase of subscriptions to our paper, we would have taken them without any show of modesty; for we think we deserved them. The increase, however, was not worth mentioning, and it would be the *happiest day of our life* if we could throw off the load we are carrying, and retire from the field, at least in so far as conducting the business of the paper is concerned. We would only be too glad to sell it, and have fully determined to do so, if not now, then in the near future. Of course, if the paper was a bonanza, or the shadow of one, we would hang to it; but it is too great a sacrifice upon our part to continue at its head, as we have other newspaper connections upon which we rely for our support.

We feel that THE UNITED STATES MAIL should be the property of the National Executive Committee, and that if the Committee owned it, an unlimited amount of money could be raised for the cause. Postmasters would then understand that, in subscribing for it, they would be contributing toward a fund to be spent in their own interest, and they would feel that their money was not going to swell the bank account of JOHN H. PATTERSON or any other private individual. They would then have a motive in sustaining the paper which they cannot now possess. There would then be no need of asking for contributions, but simply for subscriptions to the paper, and the profits of the publication would be ten times greater than they could or would be, if it was under our control.

These are our honest sentiments, and we express them only because we feel it to be a duty we owe, not only to the cause, but to ourselves.

Our physical strength is not sufficient to stand the excessiveness of our mental labors. The editing of the paper is not a *task*. We like it and love it, and will continue its editor as long as our services are desired; but it is the *business* of the office we want to get rid of, so that we can get out and look about and get a little recreation.

We have proposed to the National Committee to buy the paper, and we are ready to sign a written agreement to edit it for twelve months, *absolutely without pay*, if they will take it off our hands at a reasonable compensation. *The acceptance of our proposition is the only hope of the Committee to raise funds to prosecute its work.*

PUTTING THE MATTER TO A TEST.

It is a matter of much conjecture as to the fate that awaits the Bill introduced into Congress granting relief to third and fourth class postmasters, and we have decided to put the matter to the test. We have caused the following letter to be sent to every Member of Congress and will report the result in our next issue.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 11th, 1886.

My Dear Sir—I desire to inquire whether you will vote for and support House Bill No. 7,474, introduced by Mr. Peters, of Kansas, to increase the compensation of postmasters of the third and fourth classes.

My object in making the inquiry at this time is to get a perfect understanding of the prospects of the Bill, so that I can make a full report in the issue of THE UNITED STATES MAIL for June. The 51,000 postmasters throughout the country who are interested in the success of this measure are looking to me for information, and it is my desire to give them something positive as to what they may expect from Congress.

I have already heard from forty or fifty Congressmen, and their warm adhesion to the interests of this worthy class of your constituents has induced me to put the question direct to every member of the House, and I trust that I will have the honor to enroll you among the supporters of this measure.

In this connection I beg to call your attention to the justice and equity of that Bill. These postmasters have suffered long and uncomplainingly of the unfairness of existing postal laws. Every Postmaster-general we have had for many years has recommended the relief they now seek, and as the Press and the public are decided in their approval of the measure, I trust you will not permit any political considerations to influence you against it.

All the third-class postmasters ask is to be put upon the same footing, in the matter of office expenses and clerk hire, as those of the first and second classes. All the fourth-class postmasters seek is the first \$100 instead of the first \$50 at present allowed. The Bill also provides that the compensation allowed for the transaction of the money-order business be changed somewhat.

It has not as yet been done, but a Bill should be introduced to secure relief in the matter of mailing letters on trains as at present so persistently and systematically carried on in many parts of the country. The late Postmasters' Convention recommended that the Postmaster-general be instructed to prepare blanks to be filled up by railway postal clerks of all first-class matter mailed on postal cars, and that credit be allowed postmasters by the department therefor. Begging an early reply, I have the honor to be,

Yours, very respectfully,

JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Editor UNITED STATES MAIL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must beg off this month for not answering the questions put to us by various correspondents. Continued ill-health and a vast correspondence to attend to in connection with the work of the Memorial Committee has almost overcome us. Many, however, were answered by mail.

SENATOR PLUMB is a good deal off his base. The Kansas postmasters should take him in hand.

TO DEMOCRATIC POSTMASTERS.

We desire to say a word to you, and we trust you will give an ear to what we say. *You* are largely to blame for the failure to raise \$2,000 to send the National Committee to Washington. We are not surprised that *Republican* postmasters do not come boldly to the front and furnish the necessary funds, for they are expecting to retire, and they, therefore, have no *financial* interest in the success of the move. A large number of those who have contributed, however, are of that political faith, and they deserve credit for their generosity to you, for if we succeed it will be *you* who will be benefited.

We printed and sent out 8,000 extra copies of THE UNITED STATES MAIL for April. We sent one to every third-class postmaster in the country, and the balance were sent to *you*, some 6,000 of you. We expected you to be not only quick but liberal in your response to our call for funds for the Committee, and we had a *lingering* expectation that you would exhibit your gratitude for our labors in your behalf by subscribing to this journal; but in *both* respects we have been sadly and woefully disappointed. Not 500 of you made any response to the Committee fund, and not 100 of you have subscribed to this paper. Of course you know your business better than we do, but we are free to acknowledge that we thought you would have a higher appreciation of the efforts of the National Committee to better your condition than you have been pleased to manifest.

We wish to impress upon you the fact that, as *you* will reap the reward of this movement if it proves successful, *you* certainly ought to sustain it.

PERSONAL

We beg to remind our friends that subscriptions to THE UNITED STATES MAIL are *always* in order, and are never received except with emotions the most profound. There was a time when we would have greatly *preferred* contributions to the expense fund of the National Committee, but as we failed to secure the amount necessary to carry out the objects we had in view, any further donations of that character are quite unnecessary. We can *assure* our readers that we shall leave nothing undone to effect the objects of the late Convention, and though we may retire from the *active personal* management of this paper, in order to recuperate our health and strength, yet we shall *never* relinquish our control of its editorial pages, nor cease to take an *active* interest in behalf of third and fourth class postmasters. Their cause is our cause, and though we may not be supported in the way of subscriptions sufficient to induce us to give up all other interests, yet for the sake of those who have stood by us, and for the reason that we believe in the integrity of our course, we shall stand or fall by this movement.

Still, we have come to believe that the paper would succeed better if its *profits*—all of them—went to the National Committee, and through that body to the general interests of third and fourth class postmasters, and we are not only ready and willing, but *anxious*, to turn its *ownership* over to it. That anxiety upon our part may indicate, in some degree, the measure of support that has been tendered to us *personally*.

The mere work of *editing* this paper and preparing other matter for its columns, is a source of infinite satisfaction and pleasure, and we hope always to be able to perform its duties. But in the meantime we ask for *subscribers*, and we shall feel grateful for them.

SALARIES OF EX-POSTMASTERS.

THE Postmaster-general has written to a member of the House Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads a letter urging that Congress definitely and unmistakably declare the purpose and intent of the so-called "Spalding Act," for the readjustment of salaries of postmasters who served between 1864 and 1874. When this Act was passed in 1883 its true intent and meaning was a matter of great doubt and perplexity. Postmaster Gresham studied it carefully and wrote an elaborate opinion upon it. He also called upon Attorney-general Brewster for a construction of the law. The interpretation placed upon the law by the Attorney-general formed the basis of the mode of readjustment adopted by the department. This mode has given great dissatisfaction to most of the twenty-nine thousand ex-postmasters, who supposed the law to mean one thing, while the officials construed it to mean another. They are pouring their complaints into Congress and demanding that the method of readjustment be changed. Postmaster-general Vilas has thus far pursued the method adopted by his predecessor. He did not feel authorized to change the rule, in view of the fact that the Forty-eighth Congress appropriated nearly a quarter of a million to pay the readjustments under the rule adopted. Up to March 19th some 24,875 cases had been reviewed. Of this number 9,358 claims were allowed, the aggregate of allowances being \$548,874. Claims disallowed are 15,518, and the claimants mostly aver that under their interpretation of the Act something would be found due them. A list of claims numbering 3,828, calling for an appropriation of \$291,282, has been reported to Congress to be provided for in the Deficiency Bill. It is suggested that if Congress does not ratify the present method of readjustment it should suspend action on an appropriation for these claims; as a change of the rule of readjustment will work great confusion and compel review and readjustment of the claims already allowed. As the expenditure of over three-fourths of a million under the construction of the law now followed is not likely to put a quietus to those claims, the department is desirous that Congress make plain a very complicated and perplexing piece of legislation. A resolution is pending before Congress declaring the postmasters' view of this law as the true construction. A Bill is also pending ratifying the action taken under Attorney-general Brewster's interpretation of the Spalding Act, and instructing the department to continue to follow it.

POSTMASTER GAVIN of Corning, Ia., has refitted his office with a new, lively outfit, made by John McLean. It's one of the finest in that State.

A. H. DEALAND, Postmaster at East Rochester, N. H., has been arrested for robbing the mails. He is charged with stealing registered letters, and admits his guilt. He was not a subscriber to THE U. S. MAIL, nor a contributor to our fund. He proposed to increase his income by the short route.

THE HON. THOMAS RYAN, M. C. from Kansas, wrote as follows to Mr. J. D. AMBROSE, P. M., at Lebo, that State: "I have sincere pleasure in assuring you that I shall support the Bill you refer to." The Hon. WM. WARNER, M. C. from the Kansas City district, wrote him as follows: "The Bill, it seems to me, is a just one, and I see no reason why it should not receive my hearty support."

POSTAL POINTS.

THE postmaster at Oconomowoc, Wis., is also the proprietor of a Summer resort hotel at that place, and is said to be the handsomest man in that State. . . . Only fourteen post-offices were broken into and robbed during April. . . . Old Judge Laurenson, who has been a clerk in the Post-office Department for fifty-four years, who has but one tooth in his mouth, is not only able to perform a full day's service, but is also able to get away with four meals every twenty-four hours. . . . A brother of the postmaster at Peabody, Kan., is Professor of Political Economy at Princeton University. . . . J. H. Pitney, the veteran postal clerk, who was so badly injured in a terrible railroad accident near Greenfield, Mass., lately, is recovering, and will soon be well enough to resume his duties. Mr. Pitney has been in the service twenty-five years. . . . Mr. J. Milton McGrew, who was for seventeen years the Auditor of the Post-office Department at Washington, is now practicing law in that city, and has his hands full of business in the way of collecting claims against the department. . . . The postmaster at Breckinridge, Texas, has been considerable enough to send us photographs of two of his children, little WILLIE and CARRIE HAYNES, aged seven and nine, and we pronounce them beauties. . . . The Assistant Postmaster at Cleveland, Ohio, committed suicide, April 30th, by blowing out his brains. Temporary insanity is assigned as the cause. . . . Everybody has struck lately except the postmasters, and we don't see why in the deuce they don't. . . . Postmaster Judd of Chicago is in feeble health. . . . The lottery swindlers are being arrested right and left for using the mails unlawfully. . . . Mrs. V. A. Thompson has been confirmed by the Senate as postmaster at Louisville, Ky. This is her third term. A big kick was made by the Democrats down there, but it was no go. . . . The House has passed a Bill to extend the immediate-delivery service, which is all O.K. . . . The Bill of Senator Wilson to increase the postage on fourth-class matter to two cents per ounce was defeated. . . . The wife of General William B. Thompson, who was formerly Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, died March 13th. She was a daughter of ex-Postmaster-general Key. . . . Cyrus W. Field wants to sell out the Western Union Telegraph lines to the Government for \$100,000,000. Cyrus is a sly old coon. . . . James Elder, who was appointed postmaster at Richmond, Ind., by President Cleveland, died at his desk suddenly after just one month's service. He was apparently in good health. His son was appointed to succeed him. . . . A move was made lately to disbar D. C. Jones, the newly appointed postmaster at Columbus, Ohio. He is a lawyer, and is charged with tampering with some of the court records. . . . The immediate-delivery service is growing daily in popularity. . . . The member of the National Executive Committee from New Jersey has a handsome head of hair, the color of a two-cent stamp, but she is not a "dizzy blonde" by any manner of means. She carries as level a head as anybody in the postal service. . . . How would it do to start a Postal College for the education of men and women for the postal service. . . . The pen is mightier than the sword in the manufacture of postmasters. . . . Congressman Bingham, of Philadelphia, was once the postmaster of that city. . . . The wife of a clerk in a post-office in Kentucky died suddenly of heart-disease because of the visit of a post-office inspector at her home. She thought her husband was in trouble. . . . A clerk in the Stamp

Department of the Chicago Post-office resigned lately because it did not afford him sufficient opportunity to study the Bible. . . . THE UNITED STATES MAIL is printed in New York, but its business is conducted in Chicago. . . . If anybody wants a first-class photo of Postmaster-general VILAS it can be had by inclosing fifty cents to A. C. Isaacs, Madison, Wis. . . . The post-office at Centre Harbor, N. H., has been robbed of over \$4,000 in money and securities. . . . A newly appointed postmistress in Indiana signs her name officially thus: "Mrs. J. Smith, P. Mrs."

POSTMASTERS should all get a copy of the new and improved box-rent account book published by T. C. Keyes, Newbury, Vt. Price only \$1.

WE shall write a letter to every Member of Congress this week, and ask them whether or not they propose supporting the PETERS Bill for the relief of third and fourth class postmasters.

WE beg that our friends will remember that there is now but one method left by which we can hope to influence Congress in favor of the PETERS Bill, and that is by *correspondence*. Gentlemen! it is now, or, perhaps, *never*!

MR. J. E. WILSON, P. M., at Hays City, Kan., suggests that he is not hopeful of favorable legislation just now, and bases his conclusions upon the fact that so many Postmaster-generals have recommended the relief we are seeking, and yet Congress has so far failed to do anything.

IT is the duty of every postmaster, no matter how small the office, to postmark every letter received at his office, as well as those sent. It is also their duty to see that the postmark on outgoing and incoming letters is *plain*, date and all. The Department furnishes stamps, when applied for.

WE have a letter before us, in which PERRY RUSSELL undertakes to abuse us. He is the individual who is trying to hornswoggle the postmasters into his Mutual Benefit (?) Association. The letter was originally written to a postmaster in Kansas, and he regarded it as such a *literary* curiosity, that he has been sending it around to brother postmasters to read and laugh over. It ought to be sent to some museum. The trouble with RUSSELL is that he is a *nonentity* and don't know it. The idea that such an old ignoramus should attempt to found a Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association is too preposterous! His capacity lies in devouring beefsteaks and mutton-chops. The first thing he knows he will find himself before the court for an attempt at swindling.

SENATOR PLUMB ON MONEY-ORDER BUSINESS.

UNITED STATES SENATE.
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 24th, 1886.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, Esq., Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR.—I am duly in receipt of your favor of the 15th. It is probable, as you say, that there is no necessity for the reduction of the fees on money orders, and I will give attention to this subject at as early a day as possible. But I cannot quite agree with you that the price now paid the Postmaster for his work is inadequate. If he did not get this fee he would be idle during the time he is now engaged in earning it, and it is larger by far than the cost to any bank for the issue of drafts, and I think the postmasters would injuriously feel the effect of cutting it off. Similarly, I do not believe there would be any propriety in increasing the cost to the general public on small orders. The idea which

prevails in regard to the business of the Department generally should be carried out in this, and that is, to give to the public needing its service the lowest possible rate. The man who can afford to buy a thousand-dollar draft don't need to patronize the Government for a money order. He can get it from the bank cheaper, because he contributes to the business of the bank in a profitable way; but the interests of the people who buy small orders should be promoted as far as possible.

Truly yours,

P. B. PLUMB.

OUR REPLY.

CHICAGO, May 11th, 1886.

HON. P. B. PLUMB, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 24th, and beg to make a brief reply. You state that you cannot quite agree with me that the price now paid postmasters for the transaction of their money order business is inadequate; and, further, that if they did not get this fee, they would be idle during the time they are engaged in earning it; and that it is larger by far than the cost to any bank for the issue of drafts; and that you think postmasters would injuriously feel the effect of cutting it off. In reply I beg to state that the transaction of the money order business entails so much work upon postmasters, not only in the issuing of the money orders, but in keeping the accounts and making their reports, that the bulk of them would be glad to get rid of the business altogether. Simply issuing the money order is of but slight consequence, and occupies but a few moments' time; but it is keeping the accounts and making reports after office-hours that make the labor excessive. Many postmasters take almost the entire afternoon of every Sunday to make their reports; and then, you know, if there is the slightest error, even to the extent of a penny, that report is returned by the Auditor of the Post-office Department for correction, and the whole thing must be gone over again. I think you are in error when you state that if postmasters did not have this work on hand, their time would be unoccupied; for the larger proportion of those of the third and fourth classes have other matters to which they could give their attention, and out of which they could make much more money than they realize from the money-order business. There is so much circumlocution and so much red tape in the conduct of the money-order business, that it has really become a burden, and simply because a postmaster derives a small fee from conducting it, is no reason why the business should be shoved on him when his compensation is not equal to the labor performed. The Bill of Mr. Warner is strictly in the interests of the people who never buy bank drafts, and have no business whatever with banking institutions. If it was desirable to accommodate the public and make the money-order system even more popular than it is at present, the thing to do would be to reduce the fees on money orders of the larger amounts to rates that would induce people to purchase them instead of bank drafts. The fee charged on money orders of all sums of \$25 and over is entirely too large, and the people who purchase the larger orders are compelled to pay the cost of keeping up the money-order system for the benefit of the class that purchase the smaller orders. If the fees on the larger orders were reduced, the business of the money-order system would be greatly increased at once, and would become a source of even greater profit to the Department than it now is. According to the figures of Dr. McDonald, the cost of issuing a money order is eleven cents. Then why reduce the rate to the public from eight to five cents and thus cause even a greater loss than is now sustained? The Bill was introduced solely for political effect to try to make the people believe that an effort is being made to cheapen the cost of money orders in the interest of the people, and I am surprised that a gentleman of your eminent intelligence and discernment has failed to see what the thing means.

The only tangible argument in favor of reducing the fees on the small orders to five cents is, that the express companies do it; but that is no argument at all, for all private corporations can and do transact their business at a lower rate of expense than the Government. If you are anxious to benefit the masses of the people, and at the same time strike a blow at private enterprise, then direct your efforts against the banks, and compel them to lower their rates on drafts by lowering your rates on larger money orders.

The thing for you Senators and Representatives to do is to have a more considerate care for the interests of the postmasters, and to see that they receive a reasonable compensation for their services, which is now wholly and completely inadequate to the labor they perform.

Very truly yours,

JOHN H. PATTERSON.

HON. L. H. GRUBBS.

L. HENSLY GRUBBS is a native of Pulaski, Tennessee, but has resided in Alabama from early manhood. For a number of years he has been editing the *Decatur News*, a Democratic journal of much political influence. He is a member of the State Executive Committee of the Democratic party, and at present is a prominent candidate for the office of Secretary of State. His commission as Postmaster of Decatur is dated March 17th, 1885, being the first appointment of any man in the Southern States, except the Cabinet officers, made by President Cleveland. He is a man of quick perception, quick action, affable manners and pleasant address. He is forty-five years of age. Mr. Grubbs was the permanent chairman of the Postmasters' Convention, and proved an excellent presiding officer.

POSTMASTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is now one hundred and thirty-three years since Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster-general for the American colonies. Far-seeing and in advance of his times as he was, Franklin could have had very little conception of the future which awaited the postal business of this country. Thirty-seven years later, when that marvel of genius died, there were only seventy-five post-offices in the entire United States. Incredible as this statement sounds, it is made upon the authority of Ainsworth R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, who certainly ought to know.

The convention of postmasters which met in this city yesterday was composed of those of the third and fourth grades. The classification of post-offices is fixed by law, the Postmaster-general having no discretion in the matter. There are four grades. The first, second and third are filled by Presidential appointment and Senatorial confirmation, but those of the fourth grade are filled by the Postmaster-general, or, oftener still, the First Assistant Postmaster-general. The President could interfere, but he rarely does, and the Senate could not if it would. There are, according to the last annual report of the Postmaster-general, seventy post-offices of the first class, 382 of the second class, 1,781 of the third class, and 49,019 of the fourth: a total of 51,252. There was a time when the first-class offices were a sort of clearing-houses for the entire postal business of the country, but, thanks to the railway mail service inaugurated by George B. Armstrong, of Chicago, that business is done *in transit*, and each office, small or large, is a local office, its magnitude being proportionate to the size, enterprise and intelligence of the community.

The postmasters of the third and fourth grades are often selected without reference to politics. The people to be served naturally insist upon competency, trustworthiness and fidelity on the part of the postmaster, and convenience of the locality on the part of the post-office. If all the qualifications can be united in a man of the dominant party well and good, but if not, then partisan considerations have to be sacrificed. This was so under Republican rule, and will, no doubt, continue to be true. There are postmasters of the fourth grade whose first commission was issued by a Democratic administration and who have held on ever since, and that not because they trimmed and catered to the political sentiment and belied their own convictions, but because, for one reason or another, no suitable man wanted it. It requires very considerable intelligence to be a good postmaster, and the test of ability may be as severe in a small town as in a large one. Indeed, the first-class postmaster may be possessed of personal qualifications of the lowest grade and not much harm come of it, if he only has good assistants; but the fourth-class postmaster has no one to

coach him. If he does not know enough to understand the laws and regulations of the department, then he is pretty sure to get into trouble and give dissatisfaction, both to the public whom he serves and to the department. The post-office is a unit. Its vast business must be done correctly and promptly and properly everywhere, or there is liable to be trouble just where least anticipated.

Of all the great business operations conducted in the civilized world, by railroads, telegraph companies, express companies, banks, insurance companies, etc., not one can make as good a showing as the postal service of the United States, taking it in all its branches. The per cent. of mistakes and losses, crimes and blunders, is exceptionally small, and the excellence of the system is very largely due to the general intelligence and business efficiency of the postmasters in small towns and cross-roads. No other country has sufficient general intelligence and capacity for business transactions as to furnish such a body of postmasters where needed. Instead of detailing agents



HON. L. HENSLY GRUBBS, P. M., DECATUR, ALA.

from the central office, this Government can and must find its supplies in the immediate locality of the local office. This is really a severe test of the popular enlightenment and development.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

AN OVERWORKED BRAIN.

In the reading-room:

"You look tired, Cholly."

"Yaas."

"Been hard at work, eh?"

"Yaas."

"What at?"

"Aw—waw" (yawning). "Well, I had to wite a letter to maw, don't chew know, and she will insist on having two pages. And then I—aw—waw—made a mistake in the address, don't chew know, and had to wite it twice. Aw—waw—ugh."

Goes to sleep till dinner time.—*Town Topics*.

A CUT MAIL-POUCH FOUND.

In the office of the Post-office Inspectors yesterday there were many mysterious movements and little conferences among the inspectors. Chief Metcalf and Inspectors Bassett and Kidder had their heads together a number of times, and after these chats they would

quietly skip out to do some work. The department, however, refused to give up any information to reporters. The subject under discussion was nothing less than a mail robbery, which may be great or small, even the inspectors having no advices on the subject at present. It seems that Monday afternoon a laborer engaged in shoveling coal from a car into Norton's mills in Madison Street at the river, happened to look into an empty freight car standing on the tracks, just north of the viaduct, and there found a small pouch, size No. 2. The pouch had been cut from side to side in the centre. There was nothing around in the shape of papers or letters, and so the pouch was taken at once to the inspector's office. From the tag on the bag it was found that it had been filled with letters on the Chicago, Lafayette and Cincinnati Railway Post-office, and was destined for the Chicago, McGregor and St. Paul Railway Post-office. It was also ascertained that it had reached Chicago Saturday night at 6:50 o'clock, arriving at the Illinois Central Depot. The pouch was put in a locked mail-wagon and taken to the Union Depot and put in charge of Transfer Clerk Sheridan to be loaded on the Milwaukee and St. Paul evening train. The inspectors are looking now to ascertain the contents and the point from which the pouch was taken, whether from the depot-yard or from the open door of the mail-car. Up to a late hour last night they had not ascertained these facts, but believe it was taken direct to the freight-car by the thief and there opened.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

PAY OF POSTAL CLERKS.

The Postmaster-general Tells Why their Salaries Have Not been Increased.

WASHINGTON, March 5th.—The Postmaster-general to-day transmitted to the House his reply to the resolution asking if he had expended any portion of the \$81,300 alleged to have been appropriated by the last Congress to increase the salaries of railway postal clerks, and, if not, the reason therefor. The Postmaster-general says that the salaries have been unchanged for nine years, and that no reason is known to exist why the compensation is not as adequate as heretofore.

It appeared improper for the department to increase the salaries without any expression of such purpose from Congress. He quotes from the Congressional Record to show that the purpose of this appropriation was not to increase salaries, but to put sufficient service on new railroads. It is true that estimates for the proposed increased salaries were made by Congress, and that the inference would have been strong that Congress intended to increase salaries, but the later expression by the promoters of the Bill removes this inference. Besides this, it would require \$90,200, instead of \$81,300, to carry out the proposed plan of increase. He says it would have been manifestly prejudicial to the discipline of the service, and promotive of future discontent, to have increased the salaries for a single year and reduce them the next, and, therefore, it was inexpedient to raise them without a justifiable expectation of continuance, which could not have been deduced from the facts. For these reasons the increase of salaries was not made, nor was the appropriation expended for the proposed new service, as it was not deemed necessary. In conclusion, Mr. Vilas says that it is estimated that \$170,000 of the \$2,682,300 appropriated for the payment of postal clerks will remain on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

It is also estimated that if it is proposed to increase the salaries of railway postal clerks next year it will require about \$100,000 in addition to the amount already estimated.

OBED CHAPMAN'S LETTER.

It is Addressed to Grover Cleveland and
It Does the Business.

GLASTONBURY, Conn., says the *Hartford Courant*, is the terminus of a stage route of seven miles. On this route are two way post-offices—Hockanum and Naubuc. Glastonbury receives on an average 250 letters a day and sends as many more, yet until recently the mail for Hockanum and Naubuc has been carried in the same bag with the Glastonbury mail, and at each of these way offices the entire contents of the bag have been emptied out and sorted over, just as in the early years of the century. But the increase of the mail has made this process increasingly laborious and vexatious. When, a few years ago, one of these way offices was left in charge of the postmaster's wife for a time, the mail-bag was often so heavy that she could not lift it. But for the kind offices of the driver (who is also the mail-contractor), she would have to open the bag on the sidewalk and sort the letters there. Moreover, this primitive way of doing things involved much delay as well as wear and tear of muscle. The sorting over of the mail took time, passengers became impatient, and often the driver, in his desire to make the delay as short as possible, assisted the postmaster in the work—the regulations of the Post-office Department to the contrary notwithstanding.

Again and again the driver and the way postmasters endeavored to get a separate bag provided for the way mails. Letters were written to the postmaster here and to the department at Washington, but nothing came of them. Finally another letter was written. The address on the envelope was:

Mr. Grover Cleveland,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

The letter ran as follows.

EAST HARTFORD, CONN., February 1st, 1886.

SIR—I am a sub-contractor on mail route No. 5,175 between Glastonbury and Hartford, Conn. I earn my living by carrying the mail myself, and taking the few passengers who may feel disposed to ride in my one-horse carriage. I make two round trips and have to drive nearly thirty miles every week day. I have to start before daylight and do not get home to supper till after dark, and am paid only \$3 a day.

The most of the mail which I carry is for, or from, the Glastonbury Post-office. The largest-sized bag is used, and often two bags are sent. There are two other post-offices on the route; both of them quite small. The letters and papers for these three offices are all put, higgledy-piggledy, into the same bag or bags, just as they were when I was a boy, seventy years ago, and the postmasters at these small offices have to examine every package in order to find the few which may be for their offices. These postmasters have both written to the postmaster at Hartford, and asked him to put the mail for their offices in one small bag, separate from the mail for Glastonbury, as it would lighten their work very much and save time, all round, not to have to sort all the Glastonbury mail. The Hartford Postmaster did not answer their letter, and so one of them wrote to the Second Assistant Postmaster-general, but received no answer. This disappointed me very much, as I hoped to profit by the change they asked for.

Now, sir, I write to you in my own behalf; and would say that it would relieve me very much, as I am seventy-two years old, if I did not have to lift those Glastonbury bags on and off my carriage twelve times every day when four times would answer just as well. Besides, if the postmasters at Hockanum and Naubuc did not have to sort the whole Glastonbury mail, I could save some fifteen or twenty minutes each round trip; the two-horse stage would not be so likely to get ahead of me and pick up all the passengers; my passengers, and my horse, would no longer be unnecessarily exposed, waiting in the cold and storm for the large Glastonbury mail to be sorted at these small offices, and I could get home, take care of my horse and have my supper considerably earlier than I now do.

So I have to ask that you will please see that your \$3,400 postmaster at Hartford is more considerate of his fellow-servants in the mail-service, and that you will instruct him to put the mail for Hockanum and Naubuc in a small bag by itself, and to keep the mail for Glastonbury out of it.

Respectfully yours,
OBED CHAPMAN.

OBED'S SECOND LETTER.

We have already told something of the experience of Obed Chapman, who carries the mail between Hartford and Glastonbury. Following the old-fashioned custom, the mail for Hockanum and Naubuc, way stations on his stage route, were put in the same bag with

that for Glastonbury, and at each of these places on each trip each way he had to take out all the mail and await the delay of sorting and re-sorting it. Appeals to the Hartford Postmaster failed to secure any change or relief for him, and finally he addressed to President Cleveland the letter which we have already published, appealing directly to him for assistance.

As a result of that letter there came an order from the Post-office Department, which went into effect February 25th, directing that the Glastonbury route be provided with a "brass-lock bag" for the registered letters. It was supposed that the other Glastonbury letters would be put in this bag with the registered, and that hereafter the Hockanum and Naubuc letters would go in a separate bag.

That was what the venerable Obed was after and supposed he had got. But apparently he hadn't succeeded. There was no compulsion upon the post-office to put the ordinary mail with the registered, and so the Hartford office declined to do it. Obed Chapman discovered that, as a result of his appeal, he had secured a new bag with a nice brass lock for a few registered letters, and had this to look after besides having all the old trouble of the mixed mails. So he wrote to his friend Cleveland again. This is his second epistle:

EAST HARTFORD, February 27th, 1886.

Mr. Grover Cleveland, President of the United States:

SIR—I wrote to you on the 1st of the month and called your attention to the unnecessary work I had to do, and to the delay, in the cold and storm, to which my passengers and horse were subjected because the mails for the two small way-post-offices on route No. 5,175, Glastonbury to Hartford, were put into the same bag with the through mail.

I received a letter on the 8th of the month that told me that my letter had been referred to the Third Assistant Postmaster-general, and on the 20th I was told that the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster-general had ordered that the registered letters to and from Glastonbury be sent in a bag under a brass lock which could not be opened at the way office. As the letters and papers to and from Glastonbury had always been sent in the same bag with the registered letters, I supposed that they would continue to be so sent; and I thought that the order for a brass lock was what is called the red-tape way of bringing about the change I had asked for.

I was so well pleased with what I thought was the result of my letter to you that I told my neighbors and friends about it; and the thing got into the newspapers (as such things always do), and the newspapers thanked you, and congratulated me, and I began to feel quite cheerful. But I soon found that I had "reckoned without mine host"; and I am sorry to have to tell you that Mr. Woodhouse, the chief clerk of the Hartford Post-office, "the old man," as he is called, who has run that office and the Hartford postmasters for the past twenty-five years, or more, and who is so deep in the rut that he has worn that he can't get out of it, continues to send the mail for the small Hockanum and Naubuc offices in the same bag with the Glastonbury mail. The only change he has made is, taking out of the large bag the few registered letters which are for Glastonbury and sending them in a small bag under a brass lock. I asked him, yesterday afternoon, whether the mail for all three offices was in the large bag? He told me it was, and then jeeringly asked me whether I had not got another bag? We had a blizzard that afternoon and evening, with the thermometer nearly down to zero; and my horse, which ought to have been kept moving every minute, had to stop to have the Glastonbury mail sorted four different times when there was no need of sorting it once.

I don't believe that the change which has been made is such a change as you intended, and if it is not, I have to ask that orders be issued that "the old man" can't get round, and such as will secure to me fair play, and to my passengers and my horse humane treatment.

Respectfully yours,
OBED CHAPMAN.

This was written, it will be observed, after the terribly blustering Friday and Saturday which closed February. They convinced Mr. Obed Chapman that something more must be done. It has been done, too.

Last week another order was issued to the Hartford Post-office expressing "officially" the desire of the Department at Washington that the whole of the Glastonbury-Hartford mail be put into the brass-lock bag. This did the business. Old Obed Chapman's appeals were of no account, the evident intention of the first order was of no account, but the written direction of the Department is too strong to be resisted; and on Saturday last the Hartford Office surrendered, and Obed rides triumphant over the March winds, and all other obstacles, natural or artificial. This is an age of progress.

GOOD NEWS FOR RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

Other Items of the Rail.

In connection with the report of yesterday's accident to Cincinnati postal clerks, the following concerning that very much exposed class of Government employes seems pertinent. It is from the *Washington Post*:

"A meeting of the postal clerks of the Third Division, running into this city, was held at the City Post-office last Wednesday. As the result of this meeting a letter was forwarded to the Postmaster-general, denying that there was any truth in the article published in the *New York Herald*, to the effect that the clerks contemplated a concerted strike because of alleged dissatisfaction on their part arising from removals. The letter, which was signed by Willard Woods, Secretary, stated that the postal clerks disclaimed all knowledge of the article, and did not countenance any object of that kind."

The Postmaster-general yesterday replied to the letter. After acknowledging its receipt, he said:

"I accept your disclaimer with the more gratification because the Government has had, for the most part, faithful and excellent service from postal clerks, and the department loyal obedience, and I have not for a moment believed that any of the postal clerks of the service who are worthy to be retained in it either have entered, or could enter, into such insubordinate or unlawful concert, the only object of which would be to compel their retention or attempt to embarrass the service, and the only result of which would be their immediate dismissal from it."

"Not improbably, clamor has been raised by some who have been dismissed, to put their demerits under political cover."

"I repeat, however, that, according to the notice I gave them last year, railway postal clerks who have become efficient and valuable men, against whom no just complaint of neglect, inattention, or want of fidelity, honesty or efficiency can be brought, and who have not turned their attention to political labors during their service, need have no fear of being disturbed so long as they continue to render meritorious and faithful service. Yours truly,

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Postmaster-general."

Mr. John Jameson, General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service, said yesterday that the department has no fear of the rumored strike, and even if such action were taken by the clerks it could be easily and promptly frustrated. It is true the service might be inconvenienced, but it would be only of short duration, owing to the unlimited reserve force of the department.

A THIEVING LETTER-CARRIER.

SACRAMENTO.—E. J. Dalley, a carrier of special delivery letters in Sacramento, has been detected rifling valuable packages, and was last evening arrested by United States Marshal Drew. Several letters containing different amounts of money having disappeared, a watch has been kept for some days and investigations made by Postmaster Stephens. Finally, a valuable ring which disappeared from the mail was found on Dalley's finger by Deputy Leake. Dalley, being confronted, confessed the theft and also the taking of another ring from a package some weeks since. He denies taking the money. Marshal Drew, who was sent for, arrived this evening and made the arrest. Dalley is seventeen years of age. Bail will probably be furnished.

PULLMAN POST-OFFICE ROBBED.

On Monday night the post-office at Pullman, Ill., was entered by burglars who pried the door open. As far as is known at present they got \$100 in silver and about the same amount in stamps and three registered letters. The assistant postmaster, who reported the matter to the inspectors, gave it as his opinion that the burglars were very familiar with the locality and building. Yesterday morning a carpenter named Thomas Clawson brought to the inspector two packages of postage due and special delivery stamps which he had found on a shed back of No. 25 Fourth Avenue, they having evidently been thrown there. It is believed that these stamps were a part of those stolen from Pullman, and they were turned over to the Pullman office. There is no safe in the Pullman Post-office.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

POINTS IN STAGE-ROBBING.

A Valuable Lesson, but Rather too Late for Practical Use.

WHEN the young men, Prescott and Myers, convicted here of robbing the Yosemite stage last Winter, were asked if they had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon them, writes a Fresno (Cal.) correspondent of the New York *Sun*, they looked at each other a moment, and then Prescott, after coughing once or twice, said he was not prepared to make a speech, but he would say that they went into the business for fun, were more than satisfied with their experience, and hoped that the judge would let them off easy. The court addressed them briefly on the gravity of their offense, and the necessity which existed for breaking up the road agents' operations, and then sentenced them to twenty years' imprisonment in the State penitentiary.

"The judge took my breath away," said Prescott, a little later, when he and his companion had returned to the jail, "for I had hoped all along that we would get out of this thing a little easier than that. Now, to tell you the truth about the matter, we got into the scrape in just this way: About a year ago now I read in the newspaper the story of an old stage-robber who was telling how easy it could be done. He was up in Cloverdale, and was a good deal of a lion. The newspaper article went on to say that anybody could do up a stage, and that it made little difference whether the robber was armed or not. Myers and I worked in the country up here, and I showed him the article. He bit at once, and after we had talked the matter over for a while we decided to go up to Cloverdale and see the robber, just for the sake of seeing if he had been correctly reported. When we got there he was drunk, and it took us two or three days to get him sober enough to talk. Then I showed him the newspaper article, and after he had read it he said it was all true, though he didn't remember meeting the gentleman who wrote it. We talked with him for an hour or two, and found him a mine of information. He gave us a detailed account of all his exploits, told us just what to do at every stage of the game, and then said, very mysteriously:

"The most important thing about the business is something that cost me a heap of time and money, and I can't give it up without some compensation—some collateral."

"Myers and I talked about this branch of the inquiry, and decided not to invest unless it could be had cheap. The old robber wanted \$100, and we refused to pay it. Last Summer we talked the matter over several times, and finally, hearing that an eastern party was going into the Yosemite, we agreed to try a hold-up once for luck. We got everything ready as the veteran had told us, and robbed the stage. Then we lit out, and about a month later we were caught, and here we are.

"After we had been in jail here for a week or so, Myers said to me one day:

"This all comes from not learning the business. That Cloverdale chap said that the most important thing about the profession would cost \$100, and if we hadn't been so almighty stingy we might just as well have learned all that there was to be learned."

"That's so," said I, and then we dropped it.

"A few days latter the Cloverdale chap called on us. He was smiling all over, and seemed to feel mighty good.

"Sorry," says he; "sorry to see you boys here when, if you'd taken instruction, you needn't have been here at all. But it can't be helped now. About twenty years, I s'pose. That's what they always get here in this State. The reason for that is that twenty years is the limit. Maybe I won't be here when you get out. I came West in '51, and I'm getting rather old. With good time and other allowances you fellows may get out of San Quentin perhaps in the year 1902. I can't say where I'll be then. It would be a pity for my knowledge to die with me, and as you boys are young, and may live a good while, and as I take a fatherly interest in you, I'll sell you all I know about the profession for \$50. That's a big discount."

"We told him we'd think about it, and he

left, saying he would call the next day. Neither of us had any idea of going into the business again, but somehow our curiosity was aroused, and as we had a little money we thought we'd find out just why it was that we had had no better success.

"When the veteran called again I told him we had agreed to give him \$50 for the most important secret about stage-robbing, and his eyes sparkled with delight. I called the jailer and told him I owed the man \$50, and it was paid to him. Then the veteran said he would go into the jail office and write it down. An hour later the jailer handed me a sealed letter, and on opening it I found on a big sheet of paper in a bad scrawl the words:

"The great secret of staging, my dear boys, is: Don't get caught."

"Well, I should smile," says I, and Myers said he would, too. If that old reptile is on earth when we get out he'll get caught, and don't you forget it. He got away from town before the police could get their hands on him."

Both the prisoners are country boys, and, though their guilt is unmistakable, it is thought that, under all the circumstances, they have been dealt with pretty severely.

LOTTERY AGENTS.

THE tricks employed by lottery swindlers to escape arrest for violations of the postal laws are sometimes clever enough to puzzle the shrewdest officers. For two weeks it has been known to the inspectors that some person or persons, doing business under the names of George B. Thatcher, Room 16, No. 125 Clark Street, and Thatcher & Curtis, No. 195 La Salle Street, have been sending lottery circulars through the mails. They claim to be agents of the Louisiana lottery, and offer to sell tickets in that concern for \$5 each, promising the purchaser that if the first ticket does not draw a prize he will receive a ticket every succeeding month free of charge until he makes a winning. The advertisers set forth that these extra inducements are offered only in districts where there is known to be a prejudice existing against the lottery named. The post-office inspectors have been unable to find any responsible persons connected with the enterprise. Although the places at No. 125 Clark Street and No. 195 La Salle Street have been closely watched the only person seen in either office was a young lady clerk, who received the mail and was employed to do some copying as a blind. These girls knew nothing of their employer, except that he was seldom in the office. Being unable to catch the rogues, the inspectors ordered their mail stopped at the post-office. This was done, and both the lottery shops have been closed. — *Chicago News*.

THE THIEVING CARRIER.

JOHN MARSHALL, the letter-carrier whose arrest for stealing letters was noticed in these columns yesterday, was arrested on a second charge of the same nature yesterday afternoon. On the occasion of his first arrest, the inspectors had found in his pocket a letter addressed to Mrs. Bridget Manly, No. 147 West Van Buren Street, which had been opened. Marshall's explanation of how he came by this letter was anything but satisfactory, and Superintendent Donovan sent the letter to the person addressed with the inquiry as to whether anything was missing from it. He was informed that the letter should have contained \$2, and then it came out that Mrs. Manly was a very poor old woman, who had formerly been a domestic in the house of a lady now residing on Prairie Avenue, and that her former mistress was in the habit of sending her \$2 every week with which to pay her board. It was further discovered that these charitable remittances had ceased to come about six weeks ago, much to the distress of Mrs. Manly, who was forced to depend upon them for a subsistence, being too old and feeble to work. Marshall put in an appearance at the post-office yesterday afternoon to demand the balance due him on his salary,

and was immediately placed under arrest by Inspector Bassett and taken before Commissioner Hoyne. This time he refused to waive examination, and 11 o'clock to-day was decided upon as the time for the hearing. — *Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

ED KINSEY ON TRIAL.

He is Found Guilty of Having Opened a Letter.

EDWARD W. KINSEY, who was arrested a short time ago for having opened letters that came in his possession as a clerk in the Registry Department of the post-office, was on trial before Judge Sage and a jury in the United States Court yesterday. The principal witness against Kinsey was Post-office Inspector Herick. He testified to having placed letters containing money in the mail, and said that he had got to Cincinnati in advance of these letters. In a graphic manner he detailed how he had, through a transom over the door leading to the Registry Department, seen Kinsey take one of the letters, look about him to see that he was not watched, and then open the letter. He also spoke of having approached him in regard to the matter, and of having received from him a written confession in which he promised to pay back the money he had taken from letters.

Other witnesses testified to having missed money from letters that passed through the Cincinnati Post-office.

Kinsey testified in his own behalf. He acknowledged having opened a letter, but denied having taken any money from it. He said that the letter was badly sealed, and that he merely opened it through curiosity. In regard to the written confession, he said that he had understood that money had been missed, and that, when the Inspector approached him, he was afraid that he would lose his position. In order to avoid publicity, also, he claimed that he promised to pay over a certain amount of money.

The case was given to the jury last evening, and a verdict was rendered, finding Kinsey guilty on the first count of the indictment. The first count charged him with having wrongfully opened a letter. There was no evidence offered that implicated him in robbing the mails. — *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

AN HONEST DEMOCRAT.

He Confesses that he has Found an Honorable Republican.

THE following letter, which was received by Postmaster Backus to-day from one of the small foothill towns not a great many miles from Sacramento, discloses a state of affairs which should call for the immediate interference of President Cleveland. For obvious reasons, the names are suppressed:

"P. O. MASTER, San Francisco.—Dear Sir: We have a man by the name of — holding the post-office that is a Gambler and gets drunk, and calls every body a Sun of a b— that voted the Democratic ticket, and I ask you to intercede the P. O. M. G. at Washington and have it moved to Martin's Store, as its the only fit place. He is a Republican, but he is honorable, and I recommend him, although I never voted any other but the Democratic ticket, and I don't believe in having such dishonorable men holding Post-offices, as they will get so bold that they will gamble off the people's mail. I have lived in this place for five years and send my mail to another Post-office to be mailed, and hope that there will be a change here soon, and I hope you will tend to this soon. The postmaster was only admitted to citizenship the 11th of last March, 1885, and you can judge by this what kind of a man he is, as he was holding the post-office prior to that time."

THE Boston *Globe* says that it "fails to see any good reason why Mr. W. H. Bigelow should have been given a new lease of the railway mail service for New England," and that Democrats "find it a little vexing when of all the New England Democrats and Republicans put together the Postmaster-general selects one of Mr. Blaine's chief local wire-pullers as the only person capable of holding one of the most important positions in the Eastern States."

THE BUSY MAIL CLERK.

Enormous Amount of Labor Necessary to Get Letters to the People.

"THE life of a railway postal-clerk is a very hard one," said one of the oldest boys on the road, as he leaned back in an easy-chair—one of the good, comfortable old kind, with a cane seat, broad arms and short hind legs—and braced his feet up against the side of the postal car. "You will probably laugh, though, and say we can't be much overworked, when I tell you that some of us are on the road two days and then lay off two days, while others are on for a week and then lay off all the next week. The truth of the matter is, that when the boys are at work they labor so hard and during so many hours that when laying-off time comes they are completely used up.

"When a man is on duty he has to work between seventeen and twenty-two hours out of the twenty-four. The longest run is between Chicago and Minneapolis, which is twenty-two hours, and during that time there is no rest for anybody, unless the crew is an exceptionally smart one and the mail light. In that case the men can get a couple of hours' sleep.

"You see, this postal work is of the hardest kind, for it requires both mental and physical exertion. A man must be able to tell in what county every post-office in three, four or five different States is located; know what railroad and what junctions and connections are to be made in order to get a letter to its destination in the shortest time. He must be able to stand up before a case of, say, seventy-five boxes, while the train is in motion, and distribute the letters at the rate of from ten to twenty a minute, and keep it up for hours. He must also have the strength to handle two or three tons of pouches and sacks which weigh, when full, from seventy-five to one hundred pounds apiece. On the average run there is about nine tons of mail matter, although we carry as much as fifteen tons on heavy runs.

"Every mistake a man makes in the distribution of letters and papers or in the dispatching of pouches is recorded on a slip of paper and sent to headquarters, where the error is charged up against him. It is a first-rate plan, too, for the slip is then given to the clerk, and he learns just how he made the error, and usually the same mistake is not repeated. Some of the old clerks only make ten or fifteen errors a month, while new ones will run up to 100 or 150. Why, we fellows have to work so hard to keep up with the changes of post-offices and connections which are made every week that we don't have time to think of anything else. I even have to keep my wife busy when I am home examining me on these points.

"How do I tell at night when we are nearing a station where we don't stop, and where mail is to be caught? Oh, I have been on my run so long that I can tell by the curves of the road and the motion of the train just about where we are. I had a queer experience the other morning with a new man, whose duty it was to throw off the mail at a certain small town in Iowa. The train never stopped at that station, so the pouch had to be thrown out on the fly. It had been quite foggy for several mornings, and this clerk was in the habit of locating the town by a flock of sheep which grazed near the track, about a mile this side of the station. On this particular morning the sheep had found pasturage beyond the hill and out of sight. The consequence was that the new clerk waited in vain for his accustomed landmark, and that town went without its mail on that trip.

"Speaking of new men makes me think that they have to endure about as many jokes as a greenhorn sailor does when he first crosses the equator. Not long ago a new clerk from down in Egypt was ordered to come up to Chicago and take his examination. The boys told him that it would cost a great deal to live in Chicago for even three days, because everything was so expensive there, and that he had better take his rations with him. Well, sir, the poor fellow took it in earnest and had his wife bake him an enormous loaf of gingerbread. The boys stole the loaf, ate all they

could, and threw the rest out of the car. Some wag told another new clerk to go to the superintendent and ask for a scrub-brush and a cake of soap, because on the next trip they were going to clean out the mail-pouches. He did as he was told, and the superintendent never got over laughing at the joke. The man is known as 'Scrub' all over the line.

"Most people don't know it, but at this end of the road we have a place for the boys to turn in and get a nap between trains. The dormitory is up on the fourth floor of the Government building, and there are beds to accommodate about one hundred men. Before the clerk turns in he signs his name to the register, and opposite it writes the number of his bed and the hour he wants to be called. There is a watchman whose duty it is to keep track of the register and pull the boys out at the right time."—*Chicago News*.

A GREAT PUBLICATION.

LAST week's issue of *Harper's Weekly* cartooned Attorney-general Garland on its first page and President Cleveland on the last page. This "Journal of Civilization" is at last being forced to a realization of what nearly everybody long since foresaw, viz: the failure and disgrace of the Cleveland administration. The effects of that paper's unjust and unfair attack on Mr. Blaine are being keenly felt in the counting-room of the publishing house, and the apparent purpose of its controllers now seems to be to sneak back to old principles as gracefully as possible, hoping thereby to regain the prestige and circulation it lost by its blind and vicious desertion of the Republican cause in the campaign of 1884. It is stated by those who have every means of obtaining trustworthy information that since its change of front in the recent Presidential campaign, the circulation of the *Weekly* has decreased 30,000 to 50,000 copies per week, to say nothing of the loss of subscribers to other of the Harper publications. As the price of the *Weekly* is \$4 per year, this loss represents a money sum of \$120,000 to \$200,000 per annum. Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper* has, in the meantime, increased its circulation about 50,000, and, understanding the circumstances which contributed to its good fortune, its managers have quietly improved the opportunity by almost entirely refraining from the consideration of political questions and improving the publication so that it has cleverly outstripped its old rival in popularity and circulation, so that to-day it is conceded to be by all odds the finest and most profitable illustrated newspaper in America.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

A CINCINNATI POST-OFFICE THIEF.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR BYRON D. ADSIT went to Cincinnati last week, and yesterday he sent back a telegraph message announcing the arrest of Edward W. Kinsey, head clerk of the night force in the registry division of the Cincinnati Post-office. Though outside of his district, the case was worked up by Inspector Adsit alone on "pointers" derived from complaints received at the Chicago office from time to time concerning missing registers. It was an exceedingly difficult task to trace the leakage to its source, owing to the unusually clever manner in which the thief operated, but by amassing numerous small details, each insignificant in itself, a clew was obtained that directed suspicion toward the Cincinnati office. Inspector Herrick, of that city, was consulted by Mr. Adsit, and the two prepared a decoy which resulted in the arrest of Kinsey yesterday morning on the charge of rifling registered letters. He was taken before a United States Commissioner and held for trial in bonds of \$3,000. Kinsey is described as a man of excellent reputation, and one who enjoyed the fullest confidence of his superior officers. Just how long his peculations have been going on is not known, but there is no doubt that they have extended over the past six months. The amount stolen from persons residing in the Chicago district alone, and whose complaints have been made to the Chicago inspectors, is said to be over \$1,300.

He stole only large amounts, and, after opening and rifling a letter, would carefully seal it again and return it to the mails.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

THE LOSS OF THE "OREGON."

Mail Bags Recovered—A Warning to Mariners.

NEW YORK, March 18.—A pilot-boat arrived to-day with about fifty bags of mail from the sunken steamer *Oregon*, which were picked up during a two days' cruise about the scene of the wreck. The Lighthouse Board to-day issued the following notice to mariners: "A gas-lighted buoy, showing a white light and painted red, with the word *Oregon* in black letters on it, has been placed to mark the sunken wreck of the steamer *Oregon*. The buoy is in twenty and one-half fathoms of water, 500 feet due south of the wreck, about eighteen miles east, one-quarter south of the Fire Island whistling buoy. Bearings magnetic."

Advertisements.

Advertisements of a character suitable to THE UNITED STATES MAIL will hereafter be accepted at the rate of 50 cents per agate line, payment to be made in advance.

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ANY NEWLY APPOINTED POSTMASTER WHO desires the services of a capable, honest and reliable assistant in his office, can secure such a one by addressing Box 635, Chicago, Ill.

A YOUNG LADY, COMPETENT TO MANAGE A second-class Post-office, who is thoroughly versed in Post-office regulations, would be pleased to correspond with some newly appointed Postmaster who needs a reliable assistant. Address, Box 298, Bridgewater, Mass.

TO POSTMASTERS.

P. O. BOX-RENT ACCOUNT BOOK—NEW, enlarged and improved edition just published. 1,000 accounts easily kept in it; lasts six years to each name. Send for circular. Price of book only \$1.00. Address, T. C. KEYES, P. M., Newberry, Vt.

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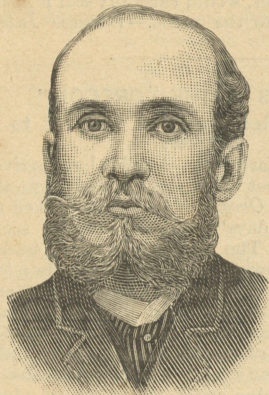
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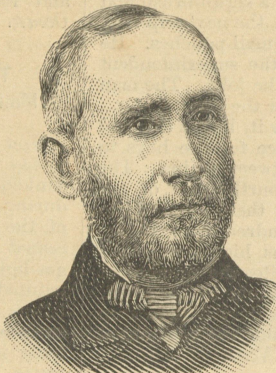
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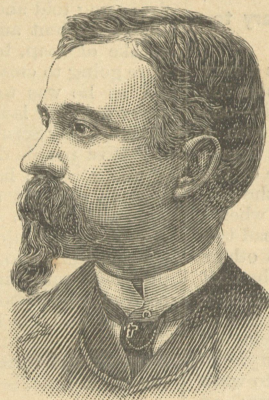
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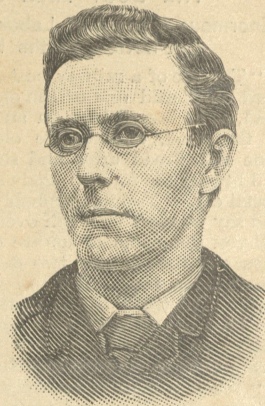
A. G. LACKEY.



WILLIAM D. HOYT.



DANIEL E. SOPER.



THOMAS F. BRADY.

CONVENTION BEAUTIES.

We present herewith some of the most famous beauties who were in attendance at the late Postmasters' Convention, but we want to say right here to all single lady postmasters that these gentlemen are all *married*, that is, we understand that they are. We have not become possessed of much of their history, but if they are single men, any of them, they ought to be dismissed from the service. JOHNSON lives out in Peabody, Kan., and runs a bookstore in connection with his post-office and is a brainy kind of a chap. He was on the floor of the Convention quite often, and always commanded attention when he spoke. He is one of the new appointees, but he has taken hold of the business like an old one. RISLEY is a Missouri plant, from way down at West Plains. He has been a P. M., some thirteen years, but his people demand his retention, and he is still there. His hobby is the money-order business, and he wants the entire system reconstructed, that is, that part of it pertaining to fees to postmasters, and we second the motion. He never made himself scarce when there was any talking to be done. DR. ROBERTS is from Sandersville, Ga. He did not address the Convention very often, but when he did, he was able to express himself in the most engaging manner. He was ready and fluent as a speaker. One of the Doctor's greatest attractions is his magnificent whiskers. CHAPMAN is from Indiana, Rome City, we believe. He is a better-looking man than his picture represents him, and while he did not speak often, yet he was *seen* all the same. He was one of the warm adherents of the Convention idea from the first, and gave us his hearty support. BRADY is from Buckhannon, West Va., and was Secretary of the Convention, and was a good one, too. He resembles a preacher, however, more than he does a postmaster, and we are not sure but that he has missed his calling. SOPER hails from Newaygo, Mich. The

shape of his head is good, and he is biz all over. We met him often during the Convention, and he has been to see us once since, and we like him much. He loans money and deals

for his patrons. He is one of those quiet, nice men who is always doing the right thing at the right time. And then there is our friend HOYT, of Middleport, N. Y. He never made long speeches, but what they lacked in length they made up in spice. He always referred to himself as "the delegation from New York," and was never very far away from the banner of his State. He was chairman of the Committee on Mailing Letters on Postal Cars, and was a worker from the word go. And what is more, his interest in the cause has never flagged, and he is as enthusiastic as ever. FRANK DANIELLS, from way up in New Hampshire—Franklin Falls—was an Assistant Secretary of the Convention. We believe he has done more for the cause than any other P. M. in the country. Through his efforts more than fifty petitions from his State have been sent to Congress, and we venture to say that they contained 5,000 names. FRANK is a new appointee, and we will bet that he will make a rattling good P. M.

We hope soon to present another page of Convention worthies. We send forth this lot with much pleasure, and we extend to them the compliments of the season.



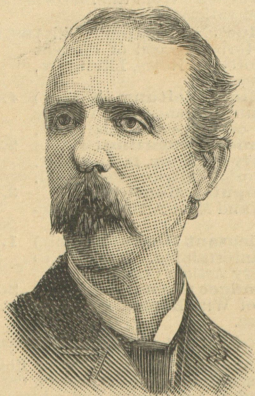
J. P. JOHNSON, POSTMASTER OF PEABODY, KANSAS.

in real estate, and a mutual friend says DAN is a daisy. LACKEY is from Marshall, Mo. He was one of the Vice-presidents, and made many friends during his stay here. He is also a new appointee, and has fitted up a splendid office

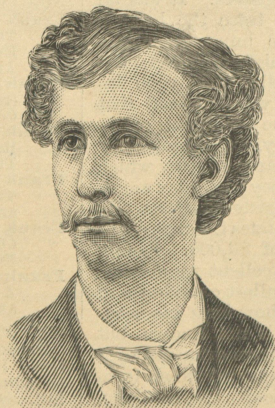
A SCHEMER CAUGHT.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR BASSETT has caused the arrest of A. T. Pitts, of Walcott, Ind., for using the mails in the interest of a scheme to defraud. The enterprise in which Pitts was engaged was called the Walcott Poultry Supply Company. It was advertised extensively through the mails, the articles to be sold being the eggs of fancy breeds of chickens. The dupes who sent their money to the "company" received in return either the commonest kind of eggs or nothing at all.

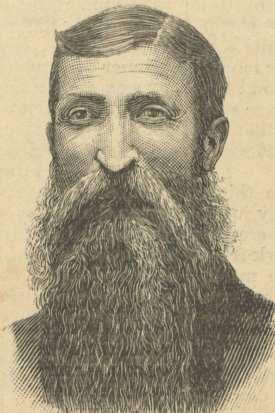
Pitts was taken before a United States Commissioner at Indianapolis, where he waived examination and was held for trial in bonds of \$1,000.



SAMUEL A. RISLEY.



J. P. CHAPMAN.



J. B. ROBERTS.



FRANK H. DANIELLS.